

Leachate analyses of volcanic ashes from Stromboli volcano: A proxy for the volcanic gas plume composition?

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[1] Many volcanoes show a change in chemical composition of the gas phase prior to periods of eruptive activity. Fine-grained tephra erupted from active vents and transported through volcanic plumes can adsorb, and therefore rapidly scavenge, volatile elements such as sulfur, halogens, and metal species in the form of soluble salts adhering to ash surfaces. Analysis of such water-soluble surface materials is a suitable supplement for remote monitoring of volcanic gases at inaccessible volcanoes. In this work, ash samples of the 2004 to 2009 eruptive activity of Stromboli volcano were sampled, leached, and analyzed for major and trace elements. Data analysis and interpretation was focused on determining the relationship between chemical composition of water-soluble components adhering to volcanic ash and the volcano's activity state. First results show significant temporal variations in ash leachate compositions, reflecting changes in the eruptive style of the volcano. In particular, we reveal that ash leachates S/F and Mg/Na ratios showed marked increases prior to a large-scale explosion on 15 March 2007.

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1. Introduction

[2] The complete characterization of volcanic ash is a suitable complement for monitoring the chemical composition of volcanic gases discharged from active volcanoes, particularly of poorly accessible ones. As volcanic gases leave the vent upon surface discharge/eruption, they mix with air and become oxidized. In response to these changes, condensation reactions occur, with fine-grained tephra often serving as catalysts for the formation of water-soluble minerals on their surfaces [Varekamp *et al.*, 1984, 1986; Oskarsson, 1980]. These soluble materials, formed on the surface of volcanic ash, have been studied through water-leaching experiments for a long time [Lacroix, 1907; Taylor and Stoiber, 1973; Rose *et al.*, 1973, 1978, 1980; Varekamp *et al.*, 1984; Armienta *et al.*, 2002; Edmonds *et al.*, 2003; Mather *et al.*, 2004; de Moor *et al.*, 2005; Witham *et al.*, 2005; Stewart *et al.*, 2006; Delmelle *et al.*, 2007]. The composition of these “ash leachates are thought to reflect, to some extent, the composition of some species in the volcanic plume [Delmelle *et al.*, 2005; Horrocks *et al.*, 2003; Stevenson *et al.*, 2003; Edmonds *et al.*, 2003; Mather *et al.*, 2004]. Previous research demonstrated that up to 30% of the volatiles emitted during an

explosive eruption may become scavenged by adsorption processes on ash surface within the eruption column [Connor *et al.*, 1993; Varekamp *et al.*, 1984; de Hoog *et al.*, 2001; Textor *et al.*, 2003] (Figures 1a and 1b). Therefore, the analysis of pristine ash leachates provides important information on the eruption processes [Taylor and Stoiber, 1973; Oskarsson, 1980; Edmonds *et al.*, 2003], and is often used to estimate the composition of the gas phase during volcanic eruptions [Taylor and Stoiber, 1973; Ossaka and Ozawa, 1975; Rose, 1977; Ossaka *et al.*, 1998]. Ash leachate data may also provide useful information on the magmatic or phreatic character of an eruption [Armienta *et al.*, 1998] and provide a good way to distinguish different eruptive styles within a single eruption (e.g., in 1980 at Mount St Helens' eruption [Stoiber and Williams, 1990]).

[3] Ash leachate data are presently unavailable for Stromboli volcano, notwithstanding this being one of the most studied volcanoes on Earth. Stromboli is the emergent portion of a ~ 3.4 km high stratovolcano rising up to 924 m above sea level (Figures 2a and 2b) from the Tyrrhenian Sea, in the northernmost sector of the Aeolian Arc (South Italy). The volcano is famous for its eruptive style, that has become the archetype of “Strombolian activity”: intermittent, mild explosions (Figure 3a) of incandescent lava fragments (bombs and lapilli) ejected up to 100–200 m height above the crater terrace (located at about 750–800 m above sea level), occurring on average every 5–20 min [Barberi *et al.*, 1993; Rosi *et al.*, 2000; Ripepe *et al.*, 2005; Patrick *et al.*, 2007; Andronico *et al.*, 2008; Andronico, 2009; Andronico and Pistolesi, 2010]. The volcanic plume associated with

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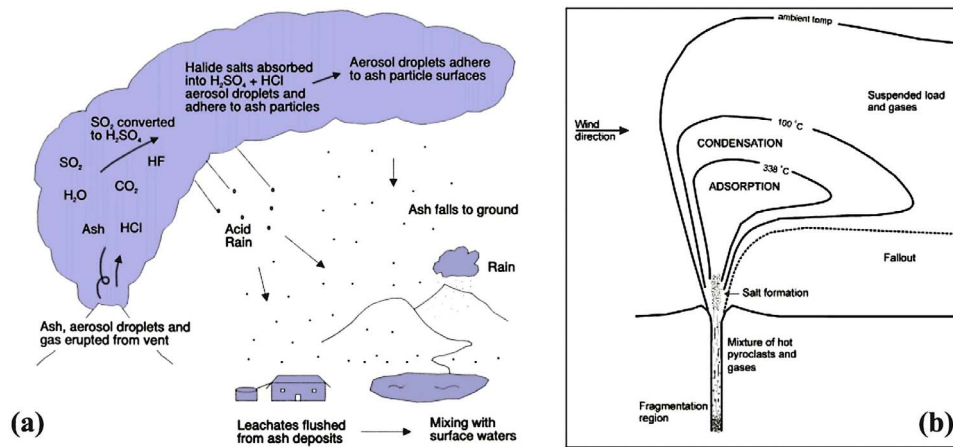


Figure 1. (a) A schematic diagram to show how volcanic gases (like HCl and SO₂) reach the atmosphere and are scavenged by wet and dry deposition. (b) Three temperature-dependent zones within an eruption column [after Oskarsson, 1980].

this *ordinary* Strombolian explosive activity consists of a dispersion of gases (H₂O, CO₂, SO₂, and HCl in roughly 1:0.2:0.02:0.02 proportions; [Allard *et al.*, 1994, 2008; Burton *et al.*, 2007; Aiuppa *et al.*, 2010a, 2010b]) and metal-rich volcanic aerosols [Allard *et al.*, 2000]. The ordinary explosions are sustained by a crystal-rich and degassed highly porphyritic (HP) magma, which resides within the upper part of the plumbing system [Bertagnini *et al.*, 1999; Métrich *et al.*, 2001]. The typical products associated with this activity are dark, relatively low-vesicularity scoriae rich in millimeter-size crystals, which commonly fall back onto the crater terrace. Scoriae contain ~50 vol. % crystals (Plag ~65; Cpx ~25; Ol ~10) [Métrich *et al.*, 2001]. During periods of powerful ordinary explosive activity, however, ash and fine lapilli frequently reach the entire volcano's summit area (Pizzo sopra la Fossa and surroundings; Figure 2a); while in case of favorable winds, the erupted ash can travel as far as villages at the foot of the volcano.

[4] The explosive activity of Stromboli is also characterized by occasional, more violent than ordinary, explosive events. Based on their intensity, they have been named *major explosions* and *paroxysms* by some authors [Barberi *et al.*, 1993; Bonaccorso *et al.*, 1996; Bertagnini *et al.*, 1999; Coltelli *et al.*, 1999; Francalanci *et al.*, 1999; Métrich *et al.*, 2001] or more broadly *paroxysms* [Bertagnini *et al.*, 1999], possibly ranging in size from *small* to *large scale* [Andronico and Pistolesi, 2010; Métrich *et al.*, 2005; Métrich *et al.*, 2010] by others. Figure 3b shows an image captured during a paroxysmal explosion. These explosive events usually eject pumices (containing <10 vol. % crystals with Plag ~42–50; Cpx ~47–30; Ol ~11–20) and are thought to be related to the fast ascent of volatile-rich magmas (the so-called LP magmas [Bertagnini *et al.*, 2003; Métrich *et al.*, 2005, 2010]) or gas slugs [Allard, 2010] bypassing the shallow volcano reservoir. To complete the common eruption scenarios occurring at Stromboli, the volcano also generates

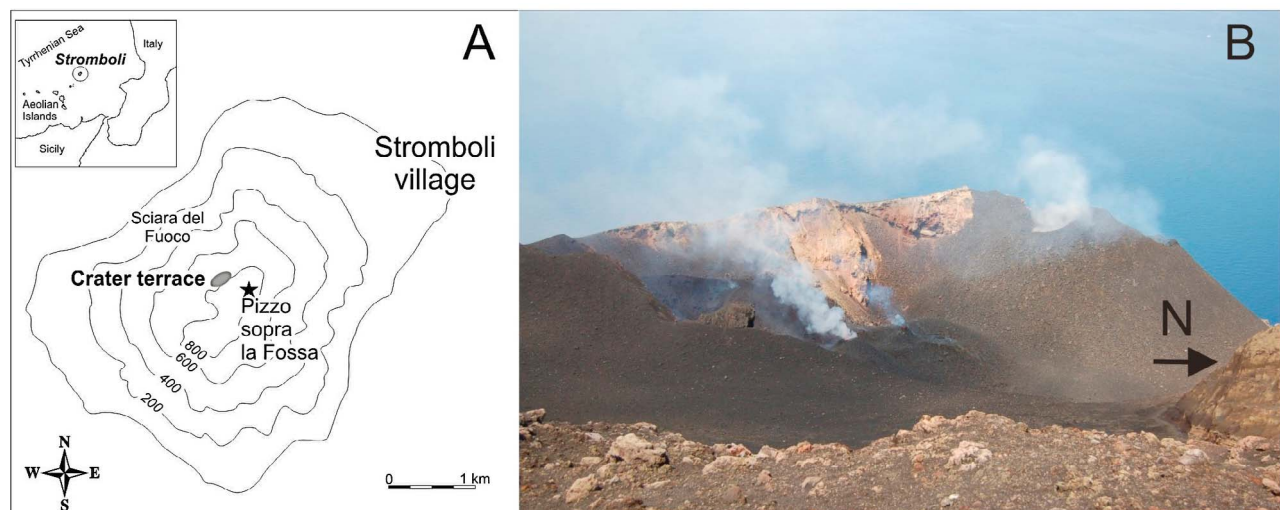


Figure 2. (a) Map of Stromboli (38°47'38"N, 15°12'40"E). (b) Recent view of the crater terrace (image captured in May 2009 by D. Andronico).

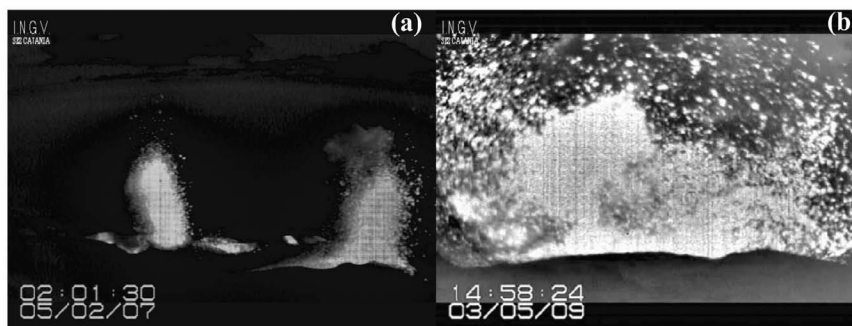


Figure 3. Infrared images captured by the monitoring camera managed by INGV-CT and located at Pizzo sopra La Fossa. (a) Examples of ordinary Strombolian explosions from the N and S areas of the crater terrace (on the right and left of the picture, respectively). (b) Major explosion/small-scale paroxysm on 3 May 2009. Note the involvement of the whole crater terrace by the products erupted during the paroxysmal explosion with respect to the ordinary explosions.

(typically once every ten years in the period 1888–1986 [Barberi *et al.*, 1993]) effusive eruptions of HP magma from fissures typically opening on the upper flanks and supplying lava flows confined within the Sciara del Fuoco slope (Figure 2a) [Bertagnini *et al.*, 2003]. Notably, during the last two effusive events in 2002–03 [e.g., Calvari *et al.*, 2005] and 2007 [Barberi *et al.*, 2009], two paroxysms shook the quiet lava effusion, on 5 April 2003 and 15 March 2007, respectively. The intense tephra fallout and ballistic shower from both paroxysms damaged a number of different scientific instruments in the summit area; in addition, up to multimetric-sized bombs reached the villages of Ginostra (Figure 2a) causing severe damage to houses on 5 April [Pistolesi *et al.*, 2008], and the lower flanks of the volcano up to about 300 m altitude on 15 March 2007 [Andronico *et al.*, 2007; Barberi *et al.*, 2009 and references therein]. Remarkably, during both paroxysms the absence of people on the upper flanks meant avoiding the loss of life.

[5] Because of its diverse and potentially hazardous eruptive activity recorded in the last years, today Stromboli has become a highly monitored volcano from a volcanological, geophysical, and geochemical point of view. In this context, the recurrent ashfallout between the summit area and the base of the volcano provides a unique opportunity to characterize the compositional features of ash leachates and to identify their relation (if any) with the eruptive activity styles.

[6] Here, we report the composition of leachates from volcanic ash samples collected during the 2004–2009 explosive activity of Stromboli. We first discuss in detail the compositional features of volatile species adsorbed on ash and compare our results with literature data from other volcanic systems. We then investigate the origin of adsorbed volatiles and attempt to address the question of whether or not the chemical composition of water-soluble components can be taken as a proxy of plume composition, and if it thus contains useful information for volcano monitoring purposes. To this end, we compare the compositional trends obtained by our analysis with the variations of the eruptive activity (mainly in terms of intensity and frequency of explosions and eruption style), including the period characterized by the 2007 lava flow eruption, and the following 15 March 2007 paroxysm. We conclude that the ash leachate S/F and Mg/Na

ratios are the most sensitive parameters to probe degassing processes at Stromboli. Overall, our results suggest that ash leachates, if systematically monitored, may become powerful tools to detect (and potentially forecast) the arrival of S-rich basaltic magmas into the shallow plumbing system before a paroxysmal explosion.

2. The 2004–2009 Eruptive Activity of Stromboli

[7] After the 2002–2003 effusive eruption [Calvari *et al.*, 2005; Pistolesi *et al.*, 2008], Stromboli gradually resumed its ordinary Strombolian activity. In Figure 4, we report the Frequency of Explosions per day (avFE) [Andronico *et al.*, 2008], calculated on the basis of the average number of explosions per hour from all the eruptive vents (see weekly reports published at Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Sezione di Catania (INGV-CT) website: www.ct.ingv.it).

[8] The diagram allows evaluating the temporal fluctuations in volcanic activity recorded over 6 years at Stromboli. Figure 4, in particular, shows periods (lasting up to a few weeks) characterized by high explosion frequency, alternated with “less active” intervals with relatively lower frequency of explosions. A few more explosive events (e.g., the 9 January 2005 “intermediate” explosion [Andronico *et al.*, 2008]) were superimposed on this ordinary activity during 2004–2006, as typical of the volcano’s behavior. By the end of January 2007, however, the explosion frequency significantly increased, ultimately leading (on 27 February) to the opening of an eruptive fissure on the upper slope of the Sciara del Fuoco, and thus the onset of the 2007 effusive eruption [Barberi *et al.*, 2009]. During the effusive phase, no ordinary Strombolian activity was visible at the summit craters; the persistent occurrence of very-long-period seismicity [Giudicepietro *et al.*, 2009] and of discontinuous (weak) ash emissions, however, were all suggestive that Strombolian activity persisted deep in the volcano’s conduit [Marchetti and Ripepe, 2005]. This relatively quiet scenario was suddenly (and only very temporarily) interrupted by a paroxysmal explosion on 15 March 2007 [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2010a, 2010b]; from a volcanological point of view, and for the purposes of this paper, this event may be viewed as one of the most powerful in the last 110 years, after the 1930 [Rittmann, 1931] and the

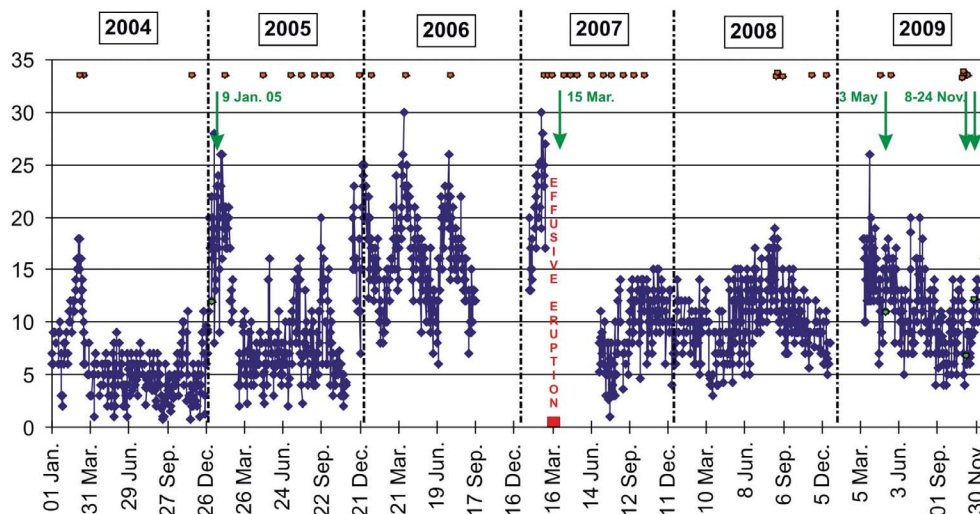


Figure 4. The total Frequency of Explosions per day (avFE) based on the average number of explosions per hour at Stromboli from 2004 to 2009. Green vertical arrows indicate the main eruptive events mentioned in section 6.2. Single or groups of samples here studied are labeled at the top of the plot (orange, full-colored circles). The red block on the bottom indicates the 2007 effusive eruption. Blank spaces indicate no images or insufficient data.

5 April 2003 [Calvari *et al.*, 2005; Pistolesi *et al.*, 2008] paroxysms [Métrich *et al.*, 2010]. It could have temporarily modified/influenced the magma feeding system of Stromboli both before and after its occurrence. Whereas the effusive eruption finally came to an end on 2 April 2007, discontinuous ash-dominated explosions persisted for a few months, and it was only by the end of June 2007 that the ordinary Strombolian activity finally resumed. In 2008, Stromboli produced at least four major explosive events, with fairly similar features to those observed between 2004 and 2006. Finally in 2009, Stromboli produced again its indisputably (volcanologically speaking) typical major/small-scale paroxysmal explosions (on 3 May and 8 and 24 November). These events were characterized by ballistic decimeter- to meter-sized spatter fallout in the upper slopes of the volcano, and light showers of centimeter-grained lapilli up to the coast and beyond.

3. Methodology

3.1. Ash Samples Collection

[9] Forty-three ash samples have been investigated for leachate analysis of major and trace elements (Table 1). Samples used in this work were selected among those collected at Stromboli from 2004 to 2009 during a high number of field surveys carried out by INGV-CT. Whereas our collection strategy was designed to uniformly cover the investigated time period with the best possible detail, the most significant ash samples come just from the period of activity encompassing the 2007 effusive eruption, and the 15 March large-scale paroxysm.

[10] Accurate criteria were followed for selecting the samples: These were unexposed to rain prior to collection (thus preventing possible “natural” leaching of the ash particles) and, when possible, collected during real-time observation of

ordinary explosions or sporadic ash emissions on the volcano’s summit. We therefore consider the selected samples representative of fresh-fallen ash, and overall uncontaminated/unaltered by postdeposition processes. Most of the samples were collected in the summit area of Stromboli, between Pizzo sopra la Fossa (918 m) and the northern upper volcanic slopes down to 800 m. Only a limited number of samples were recovered in other sites, located between the lower volcanic slopes and the inhabited areas of Stromboli (Table 1).

3.2. Ash Leachates Analysis

[11] Ash leaching was performed according to the method proposed by Armienta *et al.* [1998], and also suggested as a standard method by Witham *et al.* [2005]. For the leachate analysis, 1 g of ash was eluted with 25 ml of α Q grade Millipore water for 2 h with constant agitation. The solution was subsequently centrifuged at 3,500 rpm for 15 min and filtered through 0.45 μ m Millipore filters, to remove fine suspended materials. The obtained solutions were then analyzed for F, Cl, SO₄, Na, K, Mg, and Ca contents by ion chromatography. Detection limits were between 0.005 (F) and 0.02 (SO₄) mg/l for anions and between 0.01 and 0.05 mg/l for cations. Trace elements (Li, B, V, Cr, Fe, Ni, Cu, As, Se, Rb, Sr, Mo, Sb, Cs, Th, U, Pb, Zn, Mn, Ti, Ba, Al, Cu, Co, Cd) in ash leachates solutions were also determined by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). Accuracy and precision of ICP-MS measurement were computed by analyzing certified reference materials (SLRS4, SPS-SW1, and SRM1643e) and by performing five replicates on samples; the relative errors are less than 10% for all the analyzed elements. The analyses performed by high-performance liquid chromatography were checked using certified reference material (NWCALGARY-93 from Calgary, Alberta, Canada) and was repeatedly analyzed during the each work session. Samples were analyzed in three different dilution factors.

Table 1. List of the Ash Samples Used in This Study, Showing (When Available) the Provenance Vent Area Within the Crater Terrace (N, S, All Sectors), and the Location of Sampling Site (See Figure 2)^a

Sample Number	Date	Sampling Location	Crater Area	Main Mode(s) (mm)	Total Juvenile (Sider. + Tach.)	Lithics + Crystals
STR03	12 Mar 2004	Pizzo	N	0.1–0.25	>60%	(G)
STR02	19 Mar 2004	Pizzo		0.5–1	>60%	
STR01	21 Nov 2004	Pizzo	N	0.2–0.5		>60% (G)
STR06	08 Feb 2005	750 m - N flank	N	2–3	>60%	
STR05	12 May 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.5–1	>60%	(G+g)
STR15	14 Jul 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.25–0.5		>60% (G)
STR07	06 Aug 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.25–0.5	~ 50%	~ 50% (G)
STR08	09 Sep 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.25–0.5		>60%
STR14	23 Sep 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.5–1	>60%	
STR16	10 Oct 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.5–1	>60%	(G)
STR04	24 Dec 2005	750 m - N flank	N	0.5–1		~ 60%
STR10	12 Jan 2006	750 m - N flank	N	0.25–0.5	>60%	
STR11	12 Jan 2006	750 m - N flank	N	0.5–1	>60%	
STR12	05 Apr 2006	750 m - N flank	N	0.25–0.5	>60%	
STR13	05 Apr 2006	750 m - N flank	N	1–2	>60%	
STR09	16 Jul 2006	Pizzo		3–5	>60%	
STR28	02 Mar 2007	400 m - N flank		0.25–0.5		>60% (G)
STR31	05 Mar 2007	COA - 80 m	N	0.1–0.25		>60% (G)
STR29	15 Mar 2007	Ginostra village	all sectors	0.5–1		>60% (G)
STR30	11 Apr 2007	Ginostra village		0.25–0.5		>60% (G)
STR32	19 Apr 2007	Pizzo		0.1–0.25		>60% (G)
STR33	25 Apr 2007	800 m, N flank		0.25–0.5		>60% (G+g)
STR23	23 Jun 2007	Stromboli village		0.25–0.5		>60% (G)
STR25	26 Jul 2007	Pizzo	S	0.1–0.25		>60% (G)
STR22	03 Aug 2007	Pizzo	N	0.5–1		>60% (G+g)
STR26	20 Aug 2007	Stromboli village		0.25–0.5		>60% (G+g)
STR21	02 Sep 2007	Pizzo	S	0.1–0.25		>60% (G)
STR27	22 Sep 2007	Stromboli village	S	0.25–0.5	>60%	(g)
STR24	22 Oct 2007	Pizzo	N	1–2		>60% (g)
STR17	01 Sep 2008	Pizzo	S	0.25–0.5		>60% (G)
STR18	02 Sep 2008	Pizzo	S	0.5–1	~ 60%	
STR19	02 Sep 2008	Pizzo	S	0.5–1	~ 60%	
STR20	05 Sep 2008	Pizzo	S	0.5–1		~ 60%
STR34	17 Nov 2008	Ginostra		0.25–0.5		~ 60% (G)
STR35	16 Dec 2008	Pizzo	N	0.25–0.5	~ 50%	~ 50%
STR36	24 Apr 2009	Pizzo		0.1–0.25	>60%	
STR37	03 May 2009	Pizzo	N	0.25–0.5		~ 60% (G)
STR38	10 May 2009	Pizzo	S	0.25–0.5	~ 50%	~ 50%
STR39	29 Oct 2009	Pizzo	N	0.1–0.25		>60%
STR40	29 Oct 2009	Pizzo	N	0.25–0.5		>60%
STR41	29 Oct 2009	Pizzo	N	0.25–0.5		>60%
STR42	29 Oct 2009	Pizzo	N	0.25–0.5		>60%
STR43	18 Oct 2009	Pizzo		0.25–0.5		>60%

^aFor each sample, the prevalent grain size modes and the dominant class of componentry are also reported. Samples marked by the symbol “G” and “g” (column: Lithics+Crystals) are those for which a significant fraction of gypsum crystals was observed: “G” stands for large (>0.1 mm) skeletal/tabular single crystals (likely hydrothermally derived), while “g” stands for finer (<0.1 mm) interstitial crystals (usually occurring as aggregates), respectively.

The relative errors are less than 10% for all the analyzed elements. Analytical determinations were all performed at INGV, Sezione di Palermo.

3.3. Errors and Uncertainties

[12] In considering ash leachates as chemical proxies for the volcanic gas plume, understanding both analytical errors and the complexity of the plume chemical processes is crucial. Uncertainties in ash leachates analysis result from variations in the timing of ash/water interaction. As an example, since sulfate concentrations are quite sensitive to ash/water ratios, low interaction times may give misleadingly low concentrations if the sulfates do not attain complete dissolution. To reduce this error, tests of sequential extractions of the same sample in different time intervals (from a few hours to more than one day) have been performed to ensure complete dissolution of the soluble material adsorbed on ash

surfaces. These tests confirmed that complete dissolution of soluble phases was completed after 2 h. Further uncertainties may result from the higher solubility in water of chlorine relative to sulfate: Rain falling onto ash samples before collection may cause preferential leaching of chlorine from the ash surfaces, resulting in reduced HCl/SO₂ ratios in leachate solutions. This effect has been minimized by collecting ash samples unexposed to rain events.

4. Generalities on Water-Soluble Components Adhering to Volcanic Ash

[13] The analysis of water-soluble materials adhering to ash surfaces represents an alternative (though indirect) tool to obtain information on plume chemistry. The elements dissolved in aqueous extracts represent components of water-soluble materials either formed directly in the eruption cloud

or derived from interaction of ash particles and plume aerosol components. In volcanic plumes, tiny particles form as a result of vapor condensation, reaction of vapor with air, or reaction of vapor or condensed liquids with silicate fragments [Oskarsson, 1980]. In detail, Oskarsson [1980] proposed a model to explain the presence of water-soluble materials formed by condensation/sublimation of volcanic gases onto ash surfaces, based on the existence of three distinct temperature-dependent reaction zones within an eruption cloud (Figure 1b). Each zone accounts for a specific type of reaction involving acidic magmatic gases (such as SO₂, HCl, and HF): (i) the *salt formation zone*, in the hot core of the eruption clouds, where sulfate and halite salt aerosols form at near magmatic temperatures; (ii) the *surface adsorption zone*, where halogen gases react with ash surfaces at lower temperature (<700°C); (iii) and the *condensation zone*, which is characterized by the formation of sulfuric and halogen acids at temperatures below 338°C. These compounds will also adsorb onto ash particles. Among these, the most common processes are gas-to-particle conversion of SO₂ to sulfate (SO₄) and the formation of acid droplets from the condensation of HCl from the vapor phase (Figure 1b). The origin of the major cations in the adsorbed material is less clear, but often ascribed to the dissolution of ash constituents by the corrosive action of halide and sulfate acids in the plume. This could supply the major alkali and alkaline-earth cations [Delmelle et al., 2007; Liotta et al., 2006]. Furthermore, secondary minerals may ultimately precipitate after cations dissolution inside a liquid film on ash particles [Delmelle et al., 2005; Rose et al., 1980; Casadevall et al., 1984]. Previous studies [Delmelle et al., 2007; Moune et al., 2006] documented that in-plume ash dissolution is most efficient near the volcanic vents, during the first minutes of transport of the eruption cloud, and depends on many factors such as the initial composition of the vapor phase, the time spent by ash particles in the volcanic plume, and the surface area of ash.

5. Results

5.1. Composition, Morphology, and Grain Size of Ash Samples at Stromboli

[14] Ash samples collected at Stromboli are mixtures of four main types of particles: sideromelane, tachylite, lithics, and crystals. Sideromelane is mostly transparent to light yellow to brown with smooth surfaces and variable vesicularity; it can be found with different shapes, ranging from irregularly fluidal to elongated (forming short filaments of glass similarly to small-scale Pele's hair) to partially angular glass fragments. Tachylites are usually shiny black, blocky, nonvesicular glassy particles. These two components represent the juvenile materials directly related to the magma within the volcanic conduits; sideromelane is considered to form by the ejection of droplets of hot magma that plastically deform during flight in the air, whereas tachylites represent fragments of partially cooled more crystalline magma. Conversely, lithics are subrounded to angular particles, consisting of older and/or altered juvenile particles or fragments of preexisting rocks; hence, they are erupted already solidified. Finally, crystals are usually represented by plagioclase, pyroxene, olivine, and secondary particles, mainly gypsum.

[15] These components were present in variable percentage within each ash sample (Table 1) depending on intensity of

the explosions and, above all, the depth of the magma surface. Generally, ash samples composed of totally sideromelane particles are indicative at Stromboli of a high magma level in the volcanic conduits and efficient fragmentation process; samples in which lithic particles are predominant reflect a high percentage of recycled ash from the conduits and the crater walls, or deep (less efficient) magma fragmentation. It is thus not surprising to observe that samples collected during the 2007 effusive unrest, when the magma was not visible at the upper vents, and Strombolian activity confined deep in the conduits were dominated by partially recycled and not very fresh ash silicate fragments (tentatively classified as lithic fragments in Table 1). This contrasts with samples from the 2004–2006 period, when ordinary Strombolian activity was generally sourced by magma ponding on the crater's terrace and in which juvenile (sideromelane, tachylite) fragments prevailed. The 2008–2009 phase showed intermediate componentry between 2007 and 2004–2006, consistent with gradual resumption of ordinary Strombolian activity after the effusive eruption. Both fine-grained (<0.1 mm) interstitial (g in Table 1) and larger (>0.1 mm) skeletal (G in Table 1) gypsum crystals were commonly present, and were particularly abundant in sample STR05 and STR26.

[16] As for their textures, Stromboli's ash fragments range in size from <0.1 mm to >2 mm, but have grain size distributions with modes typically in the 0.25–0.5 to 0.5–1 mm classes (Table 1). We observe, however, that during the 2007 effusive unrest, when the ordinary explosions Strombolian at the summit vents had been replaced by weak discontinuous ash emissions, ash samples were typically characterized by a larger abundance of finer particles (with modes dominantly in the 0.1–0.25 and 0.25–0.5 classes) (Table 1).

5.2. Chemical Composition of Ash Leachates: Major Elements

[17] The abundances of water-soluble components on Stromboli ash fragments, listed in Table 1, show a large spread of compositions (Table 2). The most abundant elements in water leachates are sulfate (among anions) and calcium (among cations), with mean concentrations of 9,984 and 2,106 μg/g, respectively (Table 2). Sulfate concentrations are a factor ~5 lower in 2004–2006 samples (mean value of 230 μg/g) than in 2007–2009 (~15763 μg/g). The mean chlorine content in Stromboli's ash leachates is in the order of 2,160 μg/g, whereas fluorine has mean concentration of 1,405 μg/g. These results concur well with previous studies by Delmelle et al. [2005, 2007], who pointed out that sulfur, as sulfate (SO₄²⁻), chlorine (Cl), and fluorine (F) (ranked in decreasing order of abundance) are the most enriched elements on the ash surface compared to its bulk composition.

5.3. The Origin of Major Elements in Ash Leachates

[18] The scatterplot of Figure 5a reveals that ash leachates have sulfur to chlorine proportions falling within the range of bulk plume S/Cl ratios (data from Allard et al. [2000]). This supports a prevalent volcanogenic origin of the two elements and confirms that adsorption of plume acidic gas species (e.g., SO_{2g} and HCl_g [Allard et al., 2000]) onto volcanic ash is among the key controlling factors on ash leachate chemistry, as also documented at other volcanoes [Taylor and Stoiber, 1973; Smith et al., 1982, 1983; Varekamp and Luhr, 1996].

Table 2. Major Soluble Species Concentrations on Ash, Derived From Ash Leachate Analysis for Samples Collected During 2004–2009 at Stromboli Volcano and the Mean Chemical Composition of Stromboli Volcanic Ash^a

Sample	Date	F	Cl	SO ₄	Ca	K	Mg	Na	SO ₂ /HCl Molar	SO ₂ /HF Molar
STR01	02 Dec 2004	176.2	11.3	31.6	3.2	9.7	3.3	22.4	1.0	0.04
STR02	18 Mar 2004	169.3	201.2	1,229.1	400.6	47.5	29.2	215.6	2.3	1.44
STR03	12 Mar 2004	62.5	157.9	1,347.5	467.5	127.4	36.1	216.1	3.2	4.27
STR04	24 Dec 2005	36.4	4.3	22.3	3.9	9.1	1.7	19.0	1.9	0.12
STR05	12 May 2005	111.5	5.9	194.0	77.0	9.5	6.7	14.0	12.1	0.34
STR06	08 Feb 2005	83.3	29.5	38.7	5.7	6.4	2.9	16.6	0.5	0.09
STR07	06 Jun 2005	93.4	15.5	234.6	81.1	15.1	6.4	22.2	5.6	0.50
STR08	09 Sep 2005	34.4	9.7	21.5	4.9	8.0	2.3	14.4	0.8	0.12
STR14	23 Sep 2005	459.6	26.5	39.5	5.9	6.7	3.7	18.8	0.5	0.02
STR15	14 Jul 2005	78.2	0.9	10.5	5.1	4.1	1.4	6.3	4.5	0.03
STR16	10 Oct 2005	49.5	25.6	20.3	4.2	2.5	4.0	23.5	0.3	0.08
STR09	16 Jul 2006	31.8	122.8	454.9	175.3	26.5	17.7	75.3	1.4	2.83
STR10	12 Jan 2006	63.2	6.1	12.9	2.4	6.4	1.2	23.0	0.8	0.04
STR11	12 Jan 2006	51.9	4.3	7.0	0.1	3.8	0.3	20.2	0.6	0.03
STR12	05 Apr 2006	55.8	3.5	19.0	2.6	9.0	1.3	20.0	2.0	0.07
STR13	05 Apr 2006	51.8	5.2	9.4	0.9	6.0	1.0	18.0	0.7	0.04
STR21	02 Sep 2007	5,305.7	16,446.3	12,726.3	6,428.5	1,053.5	3,690.1	2,616.1	0.3	0.47
STR22	03 Aug 2007	2,536.2	1,249.9	17,547.1	1,928.9	1,161.9	1,863.3	1,766.5	5.2	1.37
STR23	23 Jun 2007	1,302.5	2,562.0	53,612.8	3,220.1	3,264.7	4,895.5	5,396.2	7.7	8.15
STR24	22 Oct 2007	610.0	519.5	8,255.5	829.7	459.9	612.9	682.5	5.9	2.68
STR25	26 Jul 2007	672.8	3,820.9	35,469.5	4,921.4	1,732.6	5,150.0	4,786.6	3.4	10.43
STR26	20 Aug 2007	524.6	301.6	11,408.6	2,312.9	946.2	647.4	1,162.5	14.0	4.30
STR27	28 Sep 2007	1,448.6	1,140.0	7,034.0	1,684.0	260.4	815.9	666.0	2.3	0.96
STR28	02 Mar 2007	1,059.3	10,619.0	30,019.3	8,962.0	23.4	6,162.7	4,428.0	1.0	5.61
STR29	15 Mar 2007	103.4	3,870.0	19,924.3	4,995.8	784.9	3,168.9	3,158.6	1.9	38.12
STR30	11 Apr 2007	211.7	5,270.0	16,460.4	6,571.2	88.2	2,233.4	1,620.8	1.2	15.39
STR33	05 Mar 2007	381.7	11,891.0	55,280.0	11,234.6	1,330.4	8,727.8	6,295.0	1.7	28.66
STR36	25 Apr 2007	1,738.9	431.4	9,095.2	12,290.4	2,483.9	8,343.8	5,412.7	7.8	1.04
STR37	19 Apr 2007	8,733.8	18,765.8	24,478.2	9,072.6	28.1	4,845.6	2,551.0	0.5	0.55
STR17	01 Sep 2008	1,070.7	151.0	2,354.6	477.5	128.4	46.1	580.1	5.8	0.44
STR18	02 Sep 2008	1,124.2	455.1	2,023.6	483.4	96.0	59.9	523.6	1.6	0.36
STR19	03 Sep 2008	84.5	19.3	60.6	28.3	10.3	6.9	12.9	1.2	0.14
STR20	05 Sep 2008	1,394.7	317.4	1,711.9	374.7	80.2	54.9	542.9	2.0	0.24
STR31	17 Nov 2008	706.1	365.4	1,073.4	489.7	57.6	32.1	387.9	1.1	0.30
STR38	16 Dec 2008	290.5	293.4	1,236.7	288.2	46.4	27.0	340.5	1.6	0.84
STR32	03 May 2009	1,963.5	7,377.7	78,625.5	1,864.5	761.9	168.8	1,611.1	3.9	9.19
STR34	10 May 2009	100.7	218.0	1,103.5	452.4	6.0	2.2	18.9	1.9	2.17
STR35	24 Apr 2009	3,212.9	739.6	1,819.4	1,859.3	345.7	124.9	738.4	0.9	0.11
STR39	29 Oct 2009	1,670.2	1,023.0	8,228.2	2,179.6	236.5	208.5	791.1	3.0	0.98
STR40	29 Oct 2009	1,726.6	1,227.5	8,556.4	1,810.9	323.9	283.9	1,127.8	2.6	0.98
STR41	29 Oct 2009	1,118.1	949.0	7,006.8	1,498.5	246.7	216.7	874.1	2.7	1.24
STR42	29 Oct 2009	1,509.8	644.8	6,470.9	1,385.5	258.3	178.1	804.1	3.7	0.85
STR43	18 Nov 2009	18,492.1	1,611.5	4,036.6	1,710.0	354.2	164.3	567.5	0.9	0.04
Plume composition ^b		68	1,434	6,563	52	17	3	31		
Ash composition ^{b,c}		600	550	40	65,900	17,300	39,234	18,570		

^aConcentrations are in micrograms per gram of ash, except for the plume chemical composition, which is expressed as micrograms per cubic meter [Allard *et al.*, 2000]. Besides, S/Cl and S/F molar ratios in ash leachates are also reported.

[19] If F concentrations are also taken into account, however, a more complex scenario emerges (Figure 6a). First, it is clear from the triangular diagram of Figure 6a that ash leachates are in most cases far richer in F (relative to S and Cl) than the bulk plume, which implies that—even accepting that the plume is the main source of the three volatiles—gas-ash interactions must be gas-specific (e.g., HF_g, the most abundant F species in Stromboli's plume, must be more effectively scavenged by ash than SO_{2g} and HCl_g) [Oskarsson, 1980]. Selective HF_g deposition onto ash can indeed explain the high F concentrations in ash leachate solutions, where F occasionally predominates over Cl and S concentrations (Table 2), in spite of being a relatively minor constituent of volcanic gas discharges in general [Symonds *et al.*, 1994], and at Stromboli in particular [Allard *et al.*,

2008]. Second, it is clear from Figure 6a that S:Cl:F proportions in ash leachates are highly variable, implying that either (i) the plume varied substantially (during 2004–2009) around its time-averaged composition; (ii) plume composition remained fairly constant, but plume-ash reactions varied to some extent in their dynamics (and thus products); or (iii) other S, F, Cl sources (other than the plume alone) have to be considered. Among these, the remobilization of hydrothermal minerals from the volcano's conduit system, and their entrainment in the plume as lithic fragments, is possibly a recurrent process [Witham *et al.*, 2005; Cronin *et al.*, 2003].

[20] Figure 6b shows that there is also a large spread of cation species composition, likely indicative of the existence of a variety of sources. We observe that the 2007 ash leachate

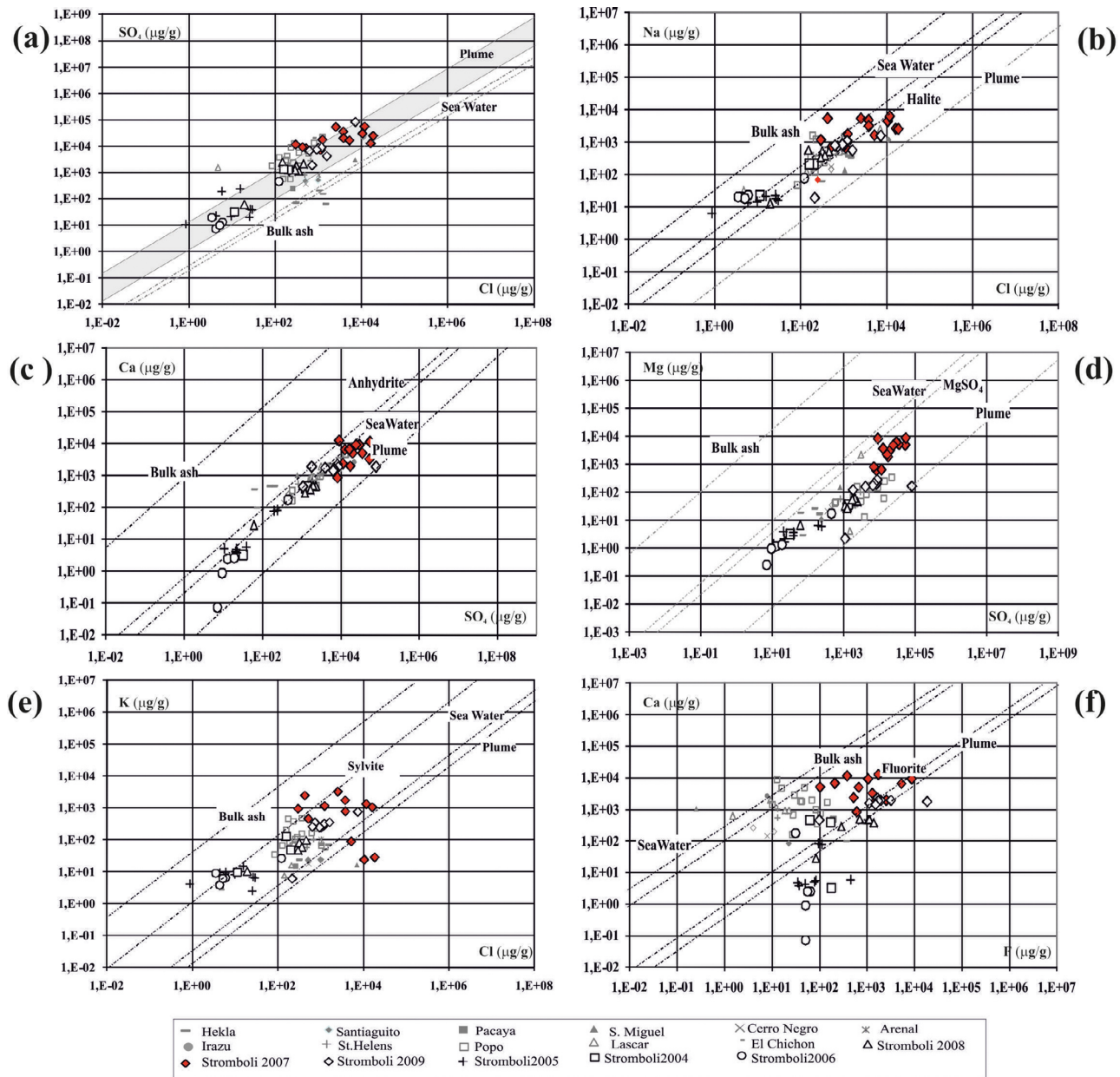


Figure 5. Scatterplots correlating the molar abundances of cation and anion species in ash leachates from Stromboli (this work; black and red samples): (a), SO₄, (b) Na, (c) Ca, (d) Mg, (e) K, and (f) Ca (see sections 5.3 and 5.4 for details). The gray zone indicates the plume's chemical composition range for the reported species. Samples from 2007 Stromboli's eruption are reported in red. Data from other volcanoes (gray) are also reported. Data sources are Oskarsson [1980]; Taylor and Stoiber [1973]; Smith et al. [1983]; Cronin et al. [2003]; Christenson [2000]; Varekamp et al. [1984]; de Hoog et al. [2001]; Hinkley and Smith [1982]; Risacher and Alonso [2001]; and Armienta et al. [2002].

samples form a relatively narrow cluster, characterized by unusually Mg-rich composition. These samples overlap the average composition of Stromboli's bulk ash [Allard et al., 2000], demonstrating that leaching of silicate (either juvenile or lithic) fragments by plume acidic species likely provided the majority of cations to water-soluble solid materials deposited on ash surface (and thus to leachates). More in detail, olivine is very soluble in sulfuric acid, and the presence

of olivine crystals that are covered in sulfuric acid may play a role in this as well. In fact, scoriae at Stromboli contain about 50% crystals constituted by Plag ~65; Cpx ~25; Ol ~10, this last exhibiting a narrow compositional range Fo70–75 [Métrich et al., 2001]. This mineral assemblage may suggest that olivine dissolution is the main source of Mg to leachates.

[21] The remaining (2004–2009) samples have distinct cation compositions to that of the ash they were leached from:

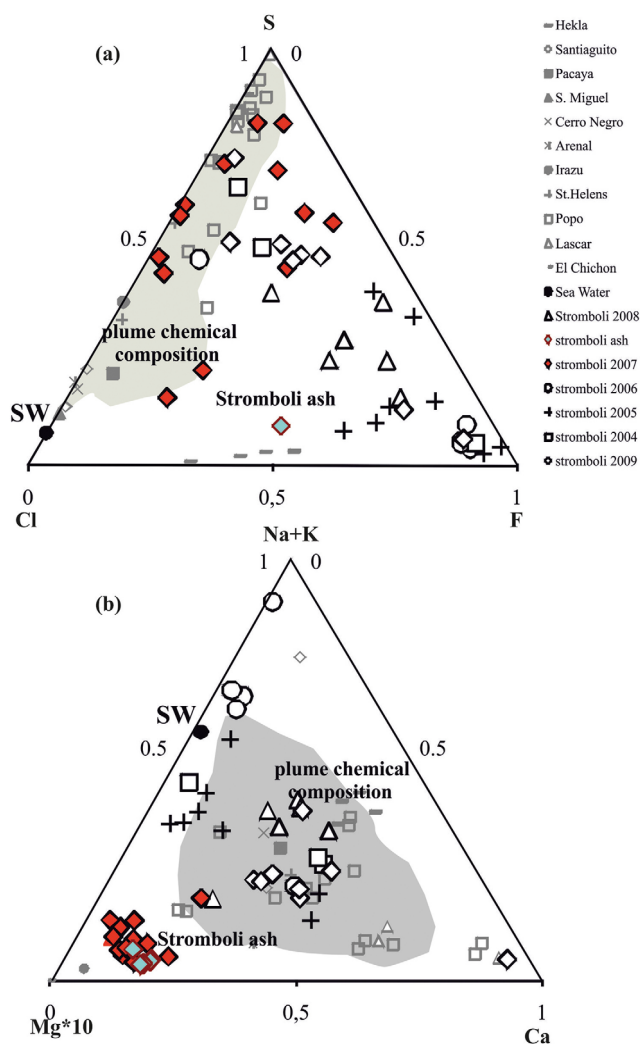


Figure 6. Ternary plots of relative adsorbed anions and cations concentrations in ash-leachate solutions from Stromboli samples. (a) Ash leachates are in most cases far richer in F (relative to S and Cl) than the bulk plume, implying that gas-ash interactions must be gas-specific (HF_g ; see section 5.3). (b) Leachates show a large spread of cation species composition: the 2007 ash samples overlap the average composition of Stromboli's bulk ash, while the remaining (2004 to 2009) samples have distinct cation compositions, suggesting that condensation of plume volatiles (on ash particles) dominate the cation budget. Concentrations of various volcanic activities are also plotted for comparison. Literature data sources are the same as Figure 5. The grey areas correspond to the plume's chemical composition.

We argue then that either ash-acidic gas reactions in the plume were not isochemical (e.g., alkalis and Ca were more effectively extracted from ash than Mg, the latter thus ultimately becoming depleted in ash leachates), or that condensation of plume volatiles (on ash particles) dominated the cation budget. It is known, in fact, that metal-bearing aerosol particles, formed by condensation of a gaseous precursor, are more enriched in Na, K, and Ca with respect to less volatile

Mg [Allard *et al.*, 2000]. Finally, seawater spray contribution cannot be excluded for some alkali-rich (and Ca-poor) samples.

5.4. Insights into the Mineralogy of Water-Soluble Materials

[22] Whatever their origin, either from acid dissolution of ash particles or from condensation of plume gases, a variety of chemicals are deposited as mineral films on the surface of ash grains, before being finally extracted during our leaching experiments. These mineral incrustations are often submicron sized, irregularly shaped, and heterogeneous in composition and are as such difficult to characterize with conventional microscope techniques (e.g., scanning electron microscope, SEM). Indirect information on their mineralogical properties can however be derived from scatterplots correlating the molar abundances of cation and anion species in ash leachates [Rose, 1977; Hinkley and Smith, 1987; de Hoog *et al.*, 2001; Risacher and Alonso, 2001] (Figure 5). Our results, in particular, demonstrate that Na and Cl in Stromboli's ash leachates correlate strongly ($r^2 = 0.6$) (Figure 5b), as do Ca and SO_4 ($r^2 = 0.8$) (Figure 5c). Using the relative metal-to-anion proportions in ash leachates, we derive information on the stoichiometry of the most abundant water-soluble surface materials, showing that CaSO_4 (hydrated?) and NaCl are likely the prevalent soluble salts coating ash surfaces (and thus being leached during our experiments). CaSO_4 and halite were repeatedly observed by SEM on Stromboli's ash surfaces (this study and Lautze *et al.* [2011]), and both mineral phases have commonly been reported as incrustations on ash particles at many active volcanoes [Rose *et al.*, 1973; Heiken, 1972]. As a most notable example, SEM observations on ash samples from Mt. St. Helens revealed the peculiar association of NaCl-KCl cubes [Woods *et al.*, 1985; Varekamp *et al.*, 1986] and anhydrite/gypsum incrustations [Thomas and Buseck, 1983]. Overall, the high correlations in Figures 5b and 5c also indicate that either the sources of cations and anions in ash leachates are the same (e.g., direct condensation of NaCl_g and CaSO_{4g} from the plume, or remobilization of $\text{NaCl}_{(s)}$ and $\text{CaSO}_{4(s)}$ from the hydrothermal envelop [Varekamp *et al.*, 1986]); or, more probably, that the higher the availability of acidic gases (SO_{2g} and HCl_g) in the plume, the more favorable the extraction of cations from dissolving ash fragments, followed by precipitation of $\text{CaSO}_{4(s)}$ and $\text{NaCl}_{(s)}$ on ash surfaces [Rose, 1977; Oskarsson, 1980; Hinkley and Smith, 1982; Delmelle *et al.*, 2007]. With the same line of reasoning, we observe that the positive high correlations between Mg and SO_4 (Figure 5d), K and Cl (Figure 5e) and Al and SO_4 (not shown) may indicate that $\text{MgSO}_{4(s)}$, $\text{KCl}_{(s)}$ and $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_{3(s)}$, while not directly detected by SEM observations at Stromboli, were among the components of the water-soluble surface materials, as they are at other volcanoes (e.g., El Chichón, Fuego, and Mt. St. Helens [Taylor and Stoiber, 1973; Varekamp *et al.*, 1984, 1986; Woods *et al.*, 1985; Hinkley and Smith, 1987]).

[23] Glass dissolution reactions are strongly enhanced by the presence of HF_g in the core of the eruptive plume [Moune *et al.*, 2006; Bellomo *et al.*, 2007; D'Alessandro *et al.*, 2008], to the point that minerals such as $\text{CaF}_{2(s)}$, $\text{AlF}_{3(s)}$ and $\text{MgF}_{2(s)}$ are thought to form on the surface of ash as a result of exposure to the plume at temperatures $>700^\circ\text{C}$ [Oskarsson,

Table 3. Concentrations of Metals Derived from Ash Leachate Analysis for Samples Collected During 2004–2009 at Stromboli Volcano and the Mean Chemical Composition of Stromboli Volcanic Ash^a

Table with columns: Sample, Date, Li, B, Al, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Rb, Sr, Mo, Cd, Sb, Cs, Ba, Pb, Th, U. Rows include samples STR01 to STR43, Plume, and Ash composition.

^aSources are Allard et al. [2000] and Bertagnini et al. [2003]. All data are in micrograms per gram of ash, except for the plume chemical composition, which is expressed as micrograms per cubic meter. NA, not available.

^bAllard et al. [2000].

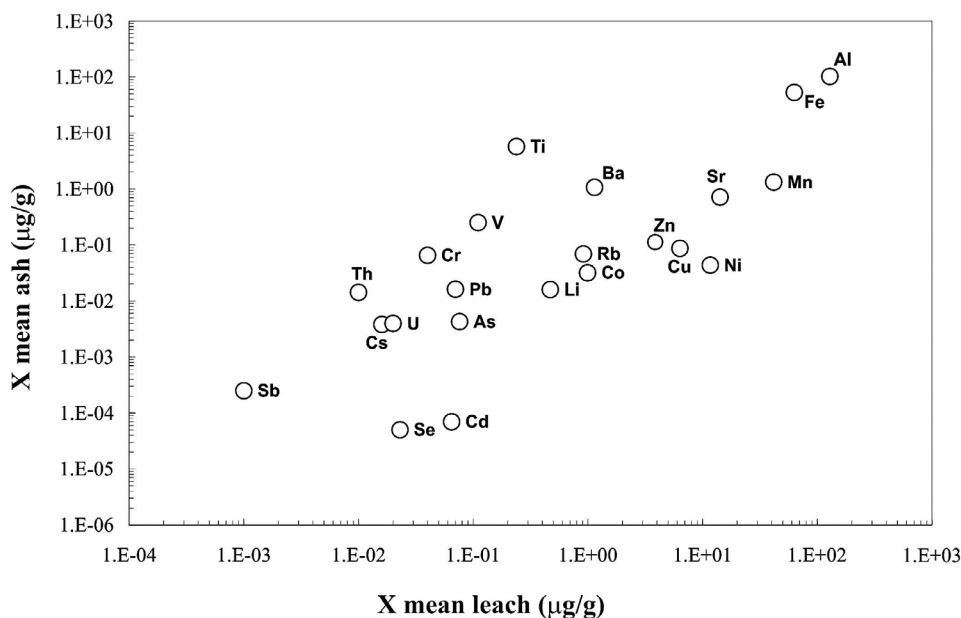


Figure 7. Diagram that shows the good correlation between trace element abundances in ash leachates and the corresponding abundances in the source magmas.

1980]. At Stromboli, the presence of these phases in the water-soluble mineral paragenesis cannot be excluded (most major cation concentrations in ash leachates are indeed positively correlated with F contents; Figure 5f). We note, however, that metal to F proportions in ash leachates seem to argue against that major cations are prevalently associated with fluorides; for example, Ca/F ratios in Stromboli's ash leachates are different from what would be expected, if congruent dissolution of stoichiometry fluorite was a major process taking place during our leaching experiments (Figure 5f).

5.5. Trace Metals and Enrichment Factors

[24] The concentrations of a suite of trace elements in our ash leachates samples are reported in Table 3. These range from about 0.0001 $\mu\text{g/g}$ for ultra-trace elements (e.g., Sb, Se, Th, U) to >1,000 $\mu\text{g/g}$ for major elements (e.g., Mn, Al, Fe, Ti).

[25] Broadly speaking, trace element abundances in ash leachates correlate well with the corresponding abundances in the source ash (Figure 7). Element-to-element fractionations (relative to magma) are observed (Figure 8): This is not surprising, considering the contrasting metal affinities for the magmatic vapor phase [McKenzie and Canil, 2008], and the different mobilities of trace metals upon acid attack of basalts [Aiuppa et al., 2000]. To determine which elements are more enriched in ash leachates solutions (relative to ash composition), we calculated, for each X element, the enrichment factor (EF), based upon the relation [Zoller et al., 1983]:

$$\text{EF} = (\text{X/Ti})_{\text{leachate}} / (\text{X/Ti})_{\text{ash}}$$

[26] The enrichment factor allows assessing the extent to which any given element is enriched in ash leachates relative

to a reference element (Ti). An EF close to unity indicates there is essentially no enrichment occurring for a given element in water-soluble form relative to the expected abundance in the pristine ash.

[27] Since Ti is a poorly volatile element at magmatic conditions, and also one of the most immobile elements during the weathering of basalts [Aiuppa et al., 2000], EFs far exceeding unity characterize volatile (enriched in the plume because of their affinity for the magmatic vapor phase) and/or mobile (more readily leached than Ti during acid-mediated leaching of ash) elements. Calculations show that the most enriched elements in the extract solutions, relative to Ti and bulk ash composition, are F, Cl, and S, and, among trace elements, Se, Cd and Cu ($\text{EF} \gg 1$; Figure 8). Similar results have been previously documented by ash leachate analysis from many other active volcanoes [Smith et al., 1982; Stoiber and Rose, 1974; Oskarsson, 1980; Phelan-Kotra et al., 1983]. Enriched trace elements display significant correlations either with sulfate (Cu; Figure 9a) or chloride (Cd, Zn; Figure 9b), and there is a similarity of Cu/S and Zn/Cl ratios in plume and ash leachates (Figure 9). It follows then that enrichment in ash leachate may reflect trace metal degassing and plume transport as gaseous halides and S compounds (e.g., CuS_g , ZnCl_{2g} [Krauskopf, 1964; Naughton et al., 1974; Moune et al., 2006; Varekamp et al., 1986]), before deposition upon ash surfaces. Besides, the positive dependence between Mg and Ni contents in leachate solutions claims for the role played by leaching of forsteritic olivine as main source of chemicals to our samples (Figure 9d).

[28] Elements like Fe, Cr, Th, Ba, Al, and V, instead, have EFs close to unity (Figure 8). These elements are known for having low affinity for the vapor phase during magmatic degassing and for their poor mobility during basalt leaching [Aiuppa et al., 2000]. Low-EF trace metals have concentrations that correlate well with F (see the Ba versus F plot of

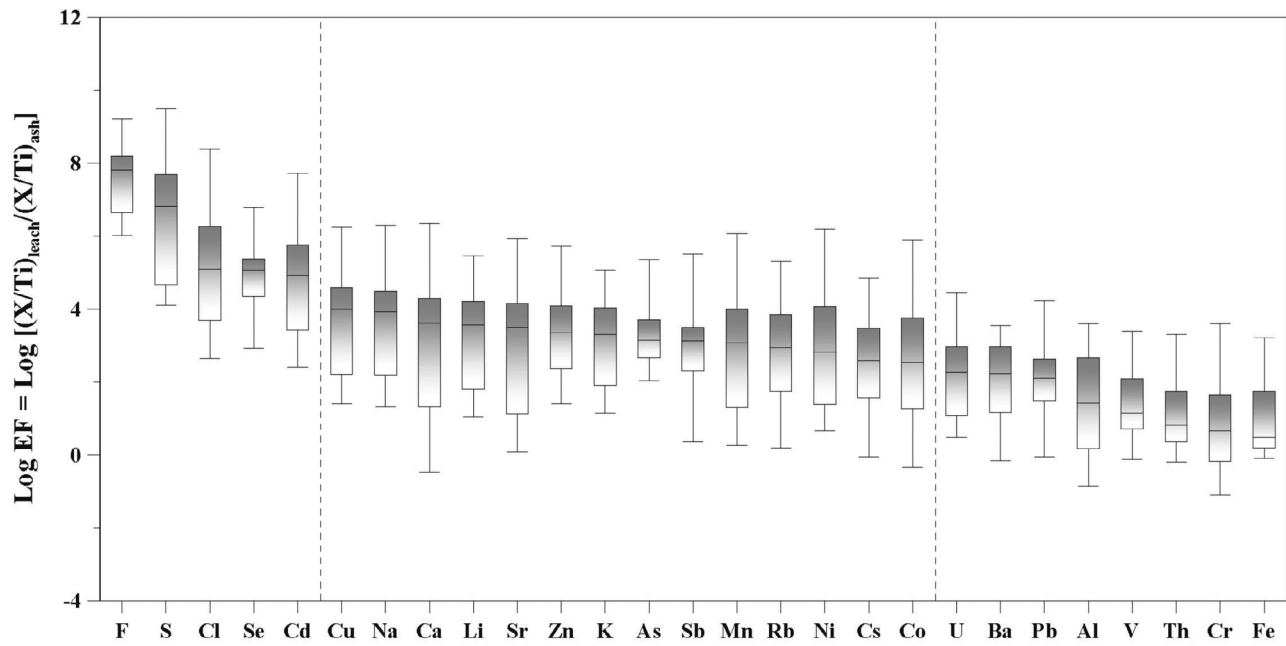


Figure 8. Diagram shows the element-to-element fractionations relative to magma due to the contrasting metal affinities for the magmatic vapor phase. Our data show that the most enriched elements in the extract solutions are F, Cl, and S; and among trace elements, Se, Cd, and Cu ($EF \gg 1$).

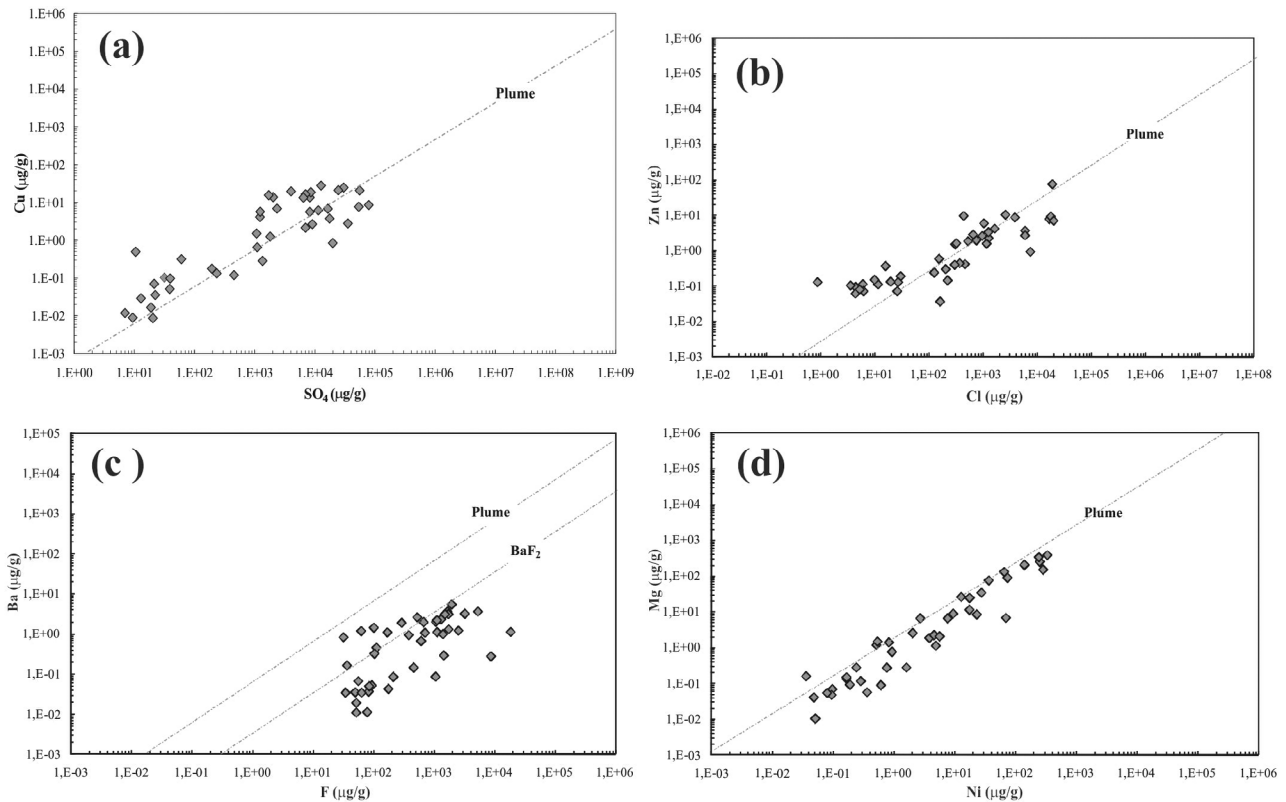


Figure 9. Binary plots displaying significant correlations either with (a) sulfate, (b) chloride, (c) fluoride, and (d) Ni, suggesting both that the enrichment in ash leachate may reflect trace metal degassing and plume transport as gaseous halides and S compounds, and that the HF_g adsorption on ash particles is a key factor regulating the release of low EF trace metals from silicates to the water-soluble surface material. Besides, the positive dependence between Mg and Ni contents in leachate solutions suggests the role played by leaching of forsteritic olivine as the main source of chemicals in our samples.

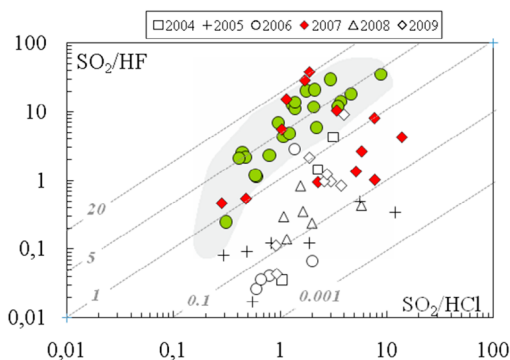


Figure 10. S/Cl variation with S/F molar ratio for leachate solutions from Stromboli 2004–2009 eruptions. Green circles and the gray area indicate Stromboli’s plume chemical composition. The dashed diagonal lines represent Cl/F ratios of 0.001, 0.1, 1, 5, and 20. Most of the data show Cl/F ratios from 0.001 to 1, which are far below the accepted volcanic arc gas range (1.9–160 [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2009]). Plume chemical composition is from a personal communication with A. Aiuppa (2010).

Figure 9c), which may suggest that HF_g adsorption on ash particles is a key factor governing their release from silicates to water-soluble surface materials.

6. Discussion: Implications for Volcano Monitoring

6.1. Stromboli’s Ash Leachates as Representative of the Volcanic Gas Plume?

[29] The highly heterogeneous composition of Stromboli’s ash leachates is a hint for the complexity (and time variability) of processes governing the formation of water-soluble materials adhering onto volcanic ash surfaces [Delmelle *et al.*, 2007]. Our chemical characterization, though not exhaustive, provides evidence that several processes are concurrently active in the plume, among which (i) gas condensation onto fresh ash surfaces, (ii) leaching of ash constituents by acidic gases, and (iii) entrainment in the plume of detrital (lithic) S-Cl-bearing fragments, are likely the most significant. It is clear then (Figure 6) that ash leachate compositions are not representative of any single process but will reflect the combined (mutual) action of all of them. For ash leachates to valuably assist in volcano hazard assessment, however, a clear identification of their source processes is mandatory, and to understand the extent to which ash leachates are a proxy of plume composition is highly critical.

[30] Of the plume volatiles that may potentially be investigated using ash leachates, S and halogens are obviously the most attractive. As basaltic magmas are decompressed through the upper crust, these species will be selectively partitioned into the gas phase (with S being first separated from melts relative to more soluble Cl and F; Métrich *et al.* [2010]) so that SO_2/HCl and SO_2/HF ratios in volcanic gas discharges have been taken as useful parameters to explore the mechanisms of magmatic degassing [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2009] to identify depths of gas-melt separation [Allard *et al.*, 2005; Burton *et al.*, 2007] and eventually to predict patterns in a volcano’s behavior [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2002]. Therefore, S/Cl

ratios have been analyzed in ash leachates from a variety of volcanic eruptions in different contexts, based on the guess (yet often not entirely demonstrated) that they are representative of the plume SO_2/HCl ratios. Results have shown that high S/Cl ratios are often associated with large-scale explosive eruptions, including the 1974 Fuego eruption (S/Cl ratios > 4 [Rose, 1977]), the 1982 eruption of El Chichón (S/Cl ratios ~ 9 [Varekamp *et al.*, 1984]), and the 1982 Galunggung eruption (S/Cl ratios of ~ 7 –8 [de Hoog *et al.*, 2001]). These unusually high S/Cl ratios (S/Cl ratios of < 1 have conversely been reported in ash leachates from passively degassing to mildly explosive volcanoes [Taylor and Stoiber, 1973]) have been interpreted as reflecting the sudden release of a sulfur-rich vapor phase, accumulated within the magma body prior to eruption, or from the influx of primitive sulfur-rich magma shortly before eruptions [Roggensack *et al.*, 1996; de Hoog *et al.*, 2001].

[31] If the preceding considerations were to apply to our Stromboli data set, we would then expect to see the largest ash leachate S/Cl values associated with the 15 March 2007 paroxysm and the 3 May 2009 major explosions, the only events (at least during our investigated period) during which the S-rich [Métrich *et al.*, 2010] basaltic (LP) magma has been erupted. However, while both model calculations [Allard, 2010] and gas-phase observations [Aiuppa and Federico, 2004] support that a high S/Cl ratio gas phase may be associated with the ascent of the LP magma, no evidence for this is found in our ash leachate data set (Table 2): the highest S/Cl ratios are observed, instead, in ash leachates from May–August 2005 (a period of relatively “ordinary” Strombolian activity) and late April–August 2007 (the period following the 2007 effusive unrest, during which even the “ordinary” Strombolian activity had virtually ceased or was, after late June, slowly resuming).

[32] The observations above clearly raise a question on whether or not Stromboli’s ash leachates have truly representative compositions of the volcanic gas plume. The S/Cl versus S/F scatterplot of Figure 10 indicates, in fact, that only a few ash leachate samples, intriguingly all collected during the 2007 effusive unrest and in coincidence with the March 15th paroxysm, have S:Cl:F compositions consistent with the plume chemical signature, whereas all the remaining samples, though having S/Cl ratios within the plume range, show far too small S/F ratios. These samples display Cl/F ratios of 0.001 to 1 (Figure 10), far below the accepted volcanic arc (and Stromboli’s) gas range (1.9–160; [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2009]). We conclude that since S/F and Cl/F ratios in ash leachates are in no way representative of plume composition (except in March 2007), then also S/Cl ratios may also not be representative: The high S/Cl ratios in ash leachates from May to August 2005 and late April to August 2007 may thus not reflect a high SO_2/HCl gas plume (for which there would be no obvious volcanological explanation) and may require a different explanation. In particular, we observe (Table 1) that high S/Cl ratios in ash leachates were systematically measured in samples (e.g., STR05, STR26) in which significant (larger than usual) amounts of secondary gypsum crystals were revealed by microscopic (binocular, SEM) observations; these crystals were in most cases large (0.1–0.5 mm), tabular, and angular, suggesting they mostly consisted in lithic fragments possibly recycled from the conduit/hydrothermal envelop. We conclude that, in samples where a

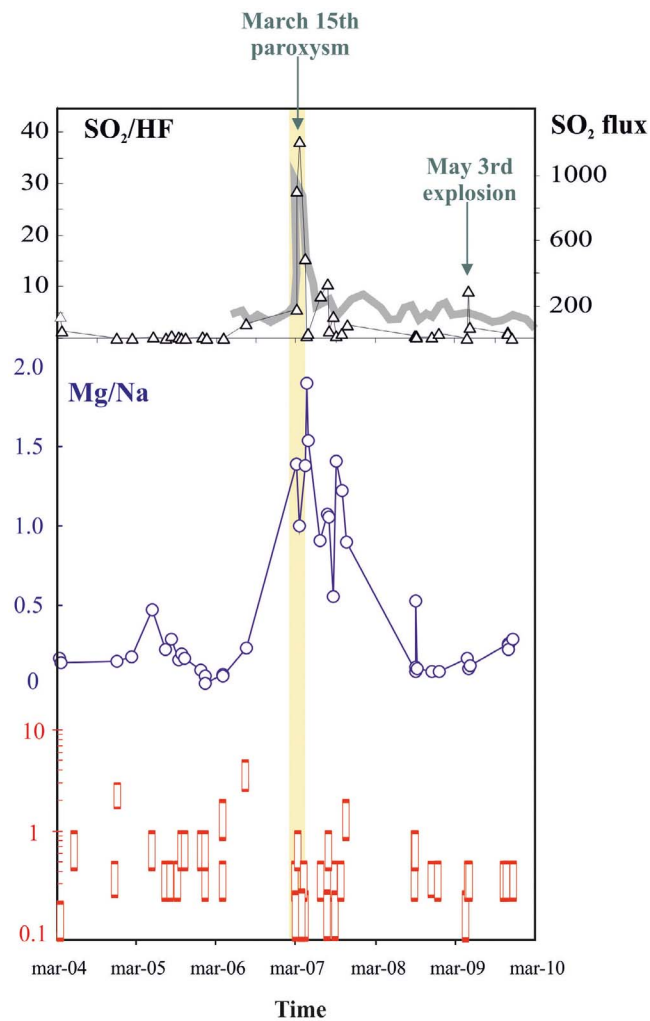


Figure 11. Time series diagrams of SO_2/HF (top left of plot) and Mg/Na molar ratios (center of plot) at Stromboli. SO_2 flux (metric ton per day) data are also reported (top right of plot) and the report of the ash emission episodes at Stromboli volcano during the period of investigation are also described (bottom of plot). The diagrams show that ash leachate compositions respond to the variation in the degassing regime prior to the 15 March 2007 and 3 May 2009 explosions, with higher S/F and Mg/Na ash leachate molar ratios (see section 6.2). The yellow area indicates the period characterized by paroxysmal explosions (from 5 March to 15 March 2007).

detrital S contribution becomes significant (or even prevails), the ash leachate S:F:Cl compositions are clearly insensitive to (and are thus in no way representative of) plume compositional signature.

6.2. The Exceptional 2007 Activity of Stromboli

[33] Accepting that, at least at Stromboli, ash leachate S:Cl:F compositions only marginally reflect the composition of the plume, the next open question is Which peculiar conditions persisted over February–March 2007, to determine the unusual “plume-like” compositions of ash leachates (Figure 10) in that interval? Indeed, in the time series diagrams of Figure 11, the unusual compositional features of ash leachates relative to the 2007 unrest clearly stand out. We

observe that, as the effusive eruption started on 27 February 2007, ash leachates became abnormally S-rich and F-poor (Figure 6a): the S/F ratio, which had systematically remained <2 during the 2004–2006 period, increased to 5.6 (within the typical plume range; Figure 10) on 2 March, only 3 days after the eruption onset; to then peak at 29 on 5 March and 38 on 15 March (during the paroxysmal explosion). It was only after the 2007 effusive eruption had come to an end (on 2 April), that the S/F ratio started to decrease, to return to its preeruption values (<1 ; far below the magmatic range) in summer 2008 (Figure 11a). This cycle of increase–decrease of the ash leachate S/F ratio was mirrored by a parallel increase in Mg proportions (increasing Mg/F—not shown—and Mg/Na ratios, Figure 11b). All ash leachate samples collected in 2007, during and in the months after the eruption, were in fact characterized by an unusually Mg-rich composition (see Figure 6); this is in spite of the fact the composition (and particularly the Mg content) of the feeding magma in the volcano’s upper conduits was remarkably constant (as evidenced by SEM-EDS measurements in matrix glasses from ash fragments and by bulk-rock measurements in lava flows sequentially emitted over the 27 February to 2 April 2007 interval [Landi *et al.*, 2009]).

[34] The SO_2 flux trend reported in Figure 11a (data from INGV-CT; courtesy T. Caltabiano) is probably a key to understanding the peculiar ash leachate features in 2007. We show in Figure 11 that the high S/F and Mg/Na ash leachate ratios in 2007 were all detected during a phase of unusually high degassing regime of the volcano, begun in coincidence with the onset of the effusive eruption on 27 February 2007 [Burton *et al.*, 2009; Aiuppa *et al.*, 2010a, 2010b]. This anomalous degassing phase, characterized by factor ~ 3 and ~ 10 increases in SO_2 and CO_2 fluxes from Stromboli’s open vents, peaked shortly before the 15 March paroxysm [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2010a, 2010b], persisted (though at declining rate) through the entire effusive phase, and then slowly vanished in the months following the eruption termination: This pattern entirely matches the trends shown by ash leachate compositions (Figure 11). We also point out that, throughout the entire 2007 degassing (and effusive) crisis, the “ordinary” Strombolian activity was not visible at the summit vents (Figure 4) and had been replaced by the intermittent (sporadic) emission of an unusually fine (Figure 11c) ash, rich in partially altered silicate fragments (overall suggesting that Strombolian activity was more sporadic, less energetic, and confined deep in the conduit) (cf. Sections 2 and 5.1).

[35] We propose that all the preceding observations are consistent with a model in which gas/ash relative proportions in the plume govern the compositional features of ash leachates. We observe that, during the 2007 Stromboli’s unrest, the emission rates of SO_2 (and other acid gases) were anomalously high, whereas the production of ash (and its later transport in the plume) was unusually low (no visible Strombolian activity at the summit vents). In such conditions (in a high gas/ash ratio plume), gas–ash interactions may be thought to be higher than usual, to the point that ash leachate S:Cl:F compositions will be wholly representative of the composition of the gas plume (Figure 10) (yielding to an overall increase of the S/F ash leachate ratio). In addition, the larger (than usual) acidic gas condensation on ash fragments would promote their extensive leaching, leading to cation release in nearly similar amounts as in the dis-

solving ash (isochemical ash leaching): This would produce the unusually Mg-rich composition of the 2007 ash leachate samples (Figures 5d, 6a, 11b, and 11c). We speculate that these processes (more gas condensation on ash surfaces, and more extensive gas-ash interaction) may also have been favored by the usually fine nature of ash emitted during the 2007 unrest (Figure 11c), contributing to an increased surface area for water-aerosol adsorption [Delmelle *et al.*, 2005], and consequently the occurrence of gas-ash reactions.

[36] In contrast, during the “ordinary” Strombolian activity phases, gas fluxes will be 3–10 times lower, whereas in-plume ash contents will be higher because of persistent spattering and Strombolian explosions at the summit vents: our data suggest that, in such low gas/ash ratio plumes, gas deposition on ash will become gas-specific (with HF_g being selectively scavenged by ash, leading to lower-than-plume S/F and Cl/F ratios; Figure 10); in addition, ash fragments will be less prone to leaching, so that more mobile cations (Na, K and Ca) will be more easily extracted than Mg, leading to low Mg/Na ratios in ash leachates (Figure 6a and 11b). We finally note, however, that a minor (relative to 15 March 2007) but still detectable increase of the ash leachate S/F ratios was measured in the 3 May 2009 ash sample, collected just 3 h prior to a major explosion (Figure 11a). This implies that, even during ordinary activity phases, the precursory gas flux increases, which systematically occur prior to larger-scale explosive events [Aiuppa *et al.*, 2010a, 2010b, and manuscript in preparation, 2011], may leave a distinct compositional sign in ash leachates.

7. Conclusions

[37] At Stromboli volcano, the composition of the ash leachates may show strong differences and are time variable, thus suggesting a multiplicity of source processes. We retain that while condensation of gaseous species on ash particles undoubtedly plays a key control on the formation of surface soluble materials, the composition of the latter is only marginally (and temporarily) representative of the original plume composition, because (i) gas-ash interactions are apparently gas-specific (with HF_g being preferentially scavenged by ash); (ii) soluble salts may also (at least partially) derive from acid-mediated leaching of ash, and (iii) additional sulfur (and possibly other species) may be contributed from entrainment in the gas plume of detrital (lithic) mineral fragments, possibly derived from the hydrothermal envelop or from the altered conduit walls (e.g., hydrothermal sulfates). We conclude that ash leachate compositions at Stromboli (and possibly other open-vent volcanoes) are related to volcanic activity state in a highly complex and nonlinear manner. Hence, they are affected by a variety of factors, including gas emission rates, plume ash content, ash componentry, and texture (all depending on the prevailing eruptive style). It is only in peculiar activity periods, when gas emissions are particularly large and ash production unusually low (e.g., in the gas-rich and ash-poor plumes emitted during the Stromboli’s February–April 2007 unrest), that ash leachates apparently become proxies for plume composition. In spite of these complexities, however, we observe that ash leachate compositions promptly responded

(with a net increase of the S/F ratio) to the variation in degassing regime occurring prior to the 15 March 2007 and 3 May 2009 explosions (the most sizable explosive events during our investigated period) (Figure 11). Whereas our conclusions are based on post-hoc data analysis, we thus suggest that systematic ash observations in the future may become helpful in revealing any eventual departure from Stromboli’s ordinary activity state, potentially preceding hazardous large-scale explosive events.

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