

Multiple sources for tephra from AD 1259 volcanic signal in Antarctic ice cores

Biancamaria Narcisi, Jean Robert Petit, Barbara Delmonte, Valentina

Batanova, Joel Savarino

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Abstract

Strong volcanic signals simultaneously recorded in polar ice sheets are commonly assigned to major low-latitude eruptions that dispersed large quantities of aerosols in the global atmosphere with the potential of inducing climate perturbations. Parent eruptions responsible for specific events are typically deduced from matching to a known volcanic eruption having coincidental date. However, more robust source linkage can be achieved only through geochemical characterisation of the airborne volcanic glass products (tephra) sometimes preserved in the polar strata. We analysed fine-grained tephra particles extracted from layers of the AD 1259 major bipolar volcanic signal in four East Antarctic ice cores drilled in different widely-spaced locations of the Plateau. The very large database of glass-shard geochemistry combined with grain size analyses consistently indicate that the material was sourced from multiple distinct eruptions. These are the AD 1257 mega-eruption of Samalas volcano in Indonesia, recently proposed to be the single event responsible for the polar signal, as well as a newly-identified Antarctic eruption occurred in AD 1259. Finally, a further eruption that took place somewhere outside Antarctica has contributed to tephra deposition. Our high-resolution, multiple-site approach was critical to reveal spatial heterogeneity of tephra at the continental scale. Evidence from ice-core tephra indicates recurrent explosive activity at the Antarctic volcanoes and could have implications for improved reconstruction of post-volcanic effects on climate from proxy polar records.

Submission Files Included in this PDF

File Name [File Type]

AD1259_text_Jan_2019.docx [Manuscript File]

Fig1_sample position_dic18.pdf [Figure]

figura 2_v3.JPG [Figure]

Fig3_micro foto dic 2018.pdf [Figure]

Fig4_TAS_AD1259_thin+ comp.pdf [Figure]

Fig5_TASthin_trend TD.pdf [Figure]

Supplementary_AD1259_rev2019.docx [MethodsX]

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Research Data Related to this Submission

There are no linked research data sets for this submission. The following reason is given: Microprobe single-grain data are given as Supplementary Material along with details of analytical conditions

1 MULTIPLE SOURCES FOR TEPHRA FROM AD 1259 VOLCANIC SIGNAL IN ANTARCTIC ICE 2 CORES

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Biancamaria Narcisi¹, Jean Robert Petit², Barbara Delmonte³, Valentina Batanova⁴, Joël
 Savarino²

- 7 (1) ENEA, C.R. Casaccia, 00123 Roma, Italy, biancamaria.narcisi@enea.it 8
- 9 (2) Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, IRD, Grenoble INP, IGE, 38000 Grenoble, France
- (3) Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT), Univ. Milano-Bicocca, Piazza della Scienza, 20126
 Milano, Italy
- 12 (4) Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, IRD, IFSTTAR, ISTerre, 38000 Grenoble, France
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15 Abstract

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17 Strong volcanic signals simultaneously recorded in polar ice sheets are commonly assigned 18 to major low-latitude eruptions that dispersed large quantities of aerosols in the global 19 atmosphere with the potential of inducing climate perturbations. Parent eruptions 20 responsible for specific events are typically deduced from matching to a known volcanic 21 eruption having coincidental date. However, more robust source linkage can be achieved 22 only through geochemical characterisation of the airborne volcanic glass products (tephra) sometimes preserved in the polar strata. We lysed fine-grained tephra particles extracted 23 from layers of the AD 1259 major bip volcanic signal in four East Antarctic ice cores drilled 24 in different widely-spaced locations of the Plateau. The very large database of glass-shard 25 26 geochemistry combined with grain size analyses consistently indicate that the material was 27 sourced from multiple distinct eruptions. These are the AD 1257 mega-eruption of Samalas volcano in Indonesia, recently proposed the the migle int responsible for the polar 28 29 signal, as well as a newly-identified Antarctic, eruption foccurred in A 30 eruption that took place somewhere outside Antarctica has contributed to tephra deposition. Our high-resolution, multiple-site approach was critical to reveal spatial heterogeneity of 31 32 tephra at the continental scale. Evidence from ice-core tephra indicates recurrent explosive 33 activity at the Antarctic volcanoes and could have implications for improved reconstruction 34 of post-volcanic effects on climate from proxy polar records.

35 Highlights

- Significant tephra concentration in AD 1259 volcanic signal from four Antarctic ice cores
- Compositional heterogeneity of tephra suggests sourcing from multiple distinct eruptions
- Linkage of the Antarctic ice signal with the Samalas AD 1257 eruption confirmed
- A new Antarctic eruption that occurred in AD 1259 has been also identified
- 40 Antarctic regional-scale effects of local volcanic activity conceivable
- 41 **Key words**: Cryptotephra; Antarctica; Ice Cores; Volcanic isochron; Glass shard
- 42 microanalysis; Antarctic rifting volcanism; Samalas AD 1257 eruption

43 **1. Introduction**

44

45 As it is documented in the vast literature produced during the last four decades, continuous volcanic profiles from polar ice sheets reconstructed by electric conductivity (ECM) and 46 sulphate measurements are punctuated by prominent spikes recording explosive eruptions 47 of the past (e.g., Hammer, 1980; Delmas et al., 1992; Langway et al., 1995; Severi et al., 2012; 48 49 Sigl et al., 2014, 2015). These signals can be used both as reference horizons to provide independent age constraints for the ice core series, and to reconstruct the history of 50 51 explosive volcanism and its relationship with climate. Volcanic events with bipolar 52 occurrence are particularly interesting in this respect. These are typically interpreted as 53 related to massive low-latitude events capable to produce sulphuric acidic deposition all 54 over the world with the potential of forcing global climate (e.g., Langway et al., 1995; Sigl et 55 al., 2015). Their record in both polar regions also enables direct north-south synchronisation of ice stratigraphies, which is of crucial importance to reconstruct the phasing of climatic 56 57 events and understanding underlying mechanisms (Svensson et al., 2013).

58 Among the most outstanding volcanic deposition events of the last 2 millennia (Sigl et al., 2014), peak fallout of volcanic aerosols over the poles dated 1259 represents a 59 fundamental age marker for ice chronologies. Its signal is recorded in several Greenland and 60 Antarctic ice cores, and was initially identified by Langway et al. (1988), who suggested that 61 62 the parent volcano could be probably located in the Northern Hemisphere close to Equator. Since then, numerous papers have considered various aspects of this event (e.g. Delmas et 63 al., 1992; Zielinski, 1995; Stothers, 2000). Particularly, its source has been a matter of debate 64 65 as until recently no record of large volcanic eruption around that date was known. On the basis of analysis of tiny glass shards, Palais et al. (1992) suggested that the material from 66 Greenland and South Pole (SP) ice levels is indeed from the same volcano, and identified El 67 68 Chichón, Mexico, as the probable source, despite the chemical match was not perfect in detail. Oppenheimer (2003) presented the hypothesis of a super-eruption of global 69 70 significance or a smaller eruption enriched in sulphur. Baroni et al. (2008) used sulphur 71 isotope analysis to indicate a stratospheric nature for the volcanic signals at the Antarctic 72 Dome C and SP sites. More recently, a major caldera explosive event was identified at 73 Samalas volcano, on Lombok Island, Indonesia (Lavigne et al., 2013, Vidal et al., 2015, 2016; 74 Alloway et al., 2017). Based upon chronostratigraphic and geochemical studies nearby the 75 source, and the analysis of historical texts, this eruption of exceptional size was dated at AD 1257, placed at the end of the Medieval Warm Period (ca. 900-1250 A.D., Mann et al., 2009). It 76 77 has been inferred to be the single counterpart of the AD 1259 bipolar spike. In particular, 78 according to a recent reconstruction of Antarctic continental-scale volcanic aerosol 79 deposition, the sulphate injection greatly exceeded that of the AD 1815 cataclysmic Tambora 80 eruption (Sigl et al., 2014).

81 When strong explosive volcanic eruptions occur, large quantities of solid particles (tephra) 82 and gases penetrate the tropopause and rise to altitudes well within the stratosphere, where 83 they can be distributed all around the globe. Tephra fallout can affect vast regions, and small 84 particles can be deposited thousands of kilometres from active sources forming invisible 85 horizons (e.g., Lowe, 2011; Ponomareva et al., 2015, and references therein). The fingerprint 86 of volcanic material preserved in distant sites can univocally identify source areas and could 87 be employed to disentangle the origin of volcanic glacio-chemical signals in polar ice cores (e.g., Yalcin et al., 2006; Dunbar et al., 2017), that otherwise is conjectured from the record of
 documented eruptions. However, especially for tropical-equatorial eruptions the amount of
 tephra that could be dispersed towards the poles is typically very small and the material very
 fine-grained, making such tephra study very challenging.

92 A preliminary exploratory investigation of a shallow Antarctic ice core from the Concordia-93 Dome C site revealed evidence of an appreciable concentration of cryptotephra in 94 connection with the AD 1259 sulphate peak (Petit et al., 2016). This intriguing observation 95 prompted us to carry out a detailed tephra study in order to make inferences about source(s) 96 that produced the tephra and to discuss the related atmospheric implications. In this work 97 we describe the characteristics of the glassy volcanic material associated with the AD 1259 98 signal in different sectors of the East Antarctic Plateau (EAP). We took advantage of having 99 access to various good-quality ice cores covering the last millennium to apply a multiple core approach that allows highlighting the spatial distribution of volcanic products. Note that 100 while attempts to identify the parent eruption of major polar signals through a tephra study 101 often rely on few shards (e.g., Zielinski et al., 1997; Barbante et al., 2013), here we obtained a 102 large dataset based on a considerable amount of electron probe microanalyses that allows 103 recognizing compositional heterogeneities within tephra, in association with ash grain size 104 105 measurements. We also considered an inventory of candidate source volcanoes more 106 extended than that employed in previous studies.

107 **2. Materials and Methods**

108 In this study we used 4 EAP ice cores located at elevations between 1950 and 3488 m (Figure 109 1 and Table S1). Two core sites, Dome C-Concordia (DC) and Vostok (VK), are located ~ 600 110 km apart in the central, inner sector of the Plateau, and two, Talos Dome-TALDICE (TD) and 111 GV7, are ~ 200 km apart in peripheral position facing the Ross Sea. They show different modern climate and atmospheric characteristics (e.g., Masson-Delmotte et al., 2011) as well 112 113 as distance from the Quaternary volcanoes of the Antarctic rift provinces. All the cores used have an undisturbed stratigraphy and are provided with a detailed volcanic aerosol profile. 114 115 either as sulphate or ECM measurements. They all show the broad and pronounced signal 116 unambiguously related to the AD 1259 event that occurs at variable depth depending on the 117 accumulation rate of the site (between 29.6 m at VK and 181.9 m at GV7, Figure 1a).

Since at the visual core inspection no macroscopic evidence for the presence of tephra was 118 119 detected, the core depth intervals corresponding to the volcanic spike were sub-sampled continuously, albeit with different resolution (5 to 15 cm) depending on the local 120 accumulation rate. Processing of subsamples for laboratory measurements was carried out 121 122 under clean conditions. To reduce contamination of samples to a minimum, the outer 123 portion of porous firn samples was removed with a clean ceramic knife while ice pieces were 124 washed thrice in ultrapure water. The resulting decontaminated samples were then melted 125 and an aliquot was used for quantitative measurements of dust concentration and size distribution using a Coulter Counter set up in a class 100 clean room (Delmonte et al., 2002). 126 The only exception relates to the GV7 core, where presence of abundant drilling fluid 127 128 prevented accurate Coulter Counter measurements. A separate aliquot of meltwater from 129 levels showing unusually high concentration of particles with respect to the local background 130 was filtered (nucleopore polycarbonate membranes) for tephra recovery. Filters were 131 examined using light and scanning electron microscopes, and typical tephra grains were

photographed (Figure 2). To investigate the source for the recovered material, we determined the major element composition of individual shards using the electron microprobe set up at the Institut des Sciences de la Terre (ISTerre) of Grenoble. The operating details are given in the Supplementary Material.

From the initial geochemical dataset (over 900 analyses) collected during different sessions, we cautiously discarded analytical data showing total oxide sums $\leq 60\%$ and those obviously related to pure minerals (quartz, plagioclase, metals, etc.). The rest, consisting ~ 320 measurements generally made on very small individual glass particles, was normalised to 100% total oxide values for subsequent interpretation. We expect a decrease of precision but after normalisation all the elements with oxide contents > 1% can be considered robust enough for interpretation (Iverson et al., 2017).

143 **3. Results**

EAP core samples selected at the culmination of the volcanic spike show microparticle 144 145 concentrations well above background levels for each site (Fig. 2). Central Plateau samples show concentrations higher (a factor 6 to 10) than background levels for firn (~ 8 ppb, 146 147 Delmonte et al., 2013) and mass size distributions well-defined around modal values smaller 148 than background (~ 2 µm on average during Holocene, Delmonte et al., 2005). For DC, the 149 mode is around 1.7 μ m, while for VK it is between 1.3 μ m and 1.9 μ m respectively for samples. VK-16 and VK-14, although some very large particles up to ~ 20 μ m were included in \blacksquare 150 151 latter.

TD sample 87-1 from the base of the volcanic sulphate peak shows very large particles with 152 mass modal values as high as ~ 6 μ m, associated to need to need to need the second 153 times background levels for firn (~ 12 ppb, Delmonte et al., 2013). From the lowermost to the 154 155 uppermost part of the volcanic spike (see Figure 1a for stratigraphic position of the samples), a progressive decrease in microparticle concentration and size can be observed. A 156 157 population of particles larger than ~ 5 μ m is present in the two deepest samples (TD 87-1 and 158 86-4), while the relative abundance of particles smaller than 2 μ m increases upward within 159 the peak. We note that sample 86-4 shows a bimodal distribution with a first mode smaller 160 than 2 μ m and a larger mode around 4-6 μ m.

At the microscopic inspection, glass particles generally display well-preserved textures with 161 no traces of abrasion strongly suggesting that the material was not subject to reworking 162 163 (Figure 3). Among the examined samples, TD 87-1 and 86-4 contain pumice particles with elongated vesicles up to ca. 40-50 µm long along with fine-size shards remnants of thin 164 165 vesicle walls. Particles in the filters from the inner EAP cores are typically represented by tiny curved and platy-like shards. Material from ple VK-14 contains glass particles up to 15-20 166 µm in size. Microscopic observations couvred with grain size analysis exclude that the 167 168 volcanic material belongs to background dust, and instead provide compelling evidence of 169 primary tephra deposition at levels within the AD 1259 acidity peak.

170Results of grain-specific geochemical analysis are illustrated in Figs 4-5, where the data are171plotted on the total alkali-silica (TAS) diagram. Silica co-variations with K_2O , CaO, FeO and172 Al_2O_3 , not shown here, are coherent in providing the same chemical pattern. Representative173analyses of individual glass shards are presented in Table S3, along with biplot comparisons

of selected major-oxide ratios in the present data and in published literature for furtherpotential source volcanoes and equivalents (Supplementary Material).

The analysed glass shards, taken altogether, display variable silica contents, from 176 177 intermediate to evolved compositions (SiO₂ > 52 wt %). No basic and ultrabasic geochemistries are represented. Within the glass heterogeneous composition spreading over 178 three TAS fields, we identify two main separate clusters of data, one trachytic falling in the 179 alkaline field, ~ 63-65 wt %, and the other showing sub-alkaline affinity and straddling the 180 181 trachyte-dacite-rhyolite boundaries (for brevity referred to hereafter as 'dacitic'), ~ 70 wt %. A 182 third subpopulation, subordinate in terms of frequency, shows a siliceous rhyolitic 183 composition (SiO₂ > 74 wt %).

Volcanic glass composition also varies spatially (Figure 4a). Ice core shards from the Central EAP sites are predominantly sub-alkaline in composition. However, the three analysed samples display different characteristics. The very fine-grained DC sample and sample VK-14 also dominantly dacitic. Sample VK-16 displays two clusters of geochemical data. The main glass population is dacitic in composition and appears comparable with that in sample VK-14 and in DC, the subordinate population is a siliceous rhyolite. Sparse analyses from both VK samples fall within the trachytic glass group.

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192 In all six ice sections from the two peripheral EAP sites trachytic tephra particles are 193 dominating, but with occurrence of subordinate glass with different signature (Fig. 4a). At TD, 194 we observe an interesting compositional variation with respect to the time-stratigraphic 195 position of the samples (Figure 5). Volcanic ash on the TD 87-1 filter, situated at the very 196 beginning of the sulphate fallout (Figure 1) and containing coarse particles, is mainly 197 trachytic in composition. The adjacent TD 86-4 from the acme of the sulphate volcanic signal 198 shows two main coexisting glass populations. This is consistent with the striking bimodal 199 grain size distribution of this sample (Figure 2). According to scanning electron microscopic 200 check during microprobe analysis, coarser particles correspond to trachyte, finer particles 201 are mostly dacitic. Glass from the upper TD 86 samples -3 and -2, stratigraphically located at 202 the later part of the spike and populated by fine particles, is trachytic. GV7 ice shows co-203 existing trachytic and dacitic geochemistries (Figure 4a). The two analysed samples are 204 equally heterogeneous (not shown). In all samples from the peripheral cores, only one shard 205 from TD falls within the rhyolite cluster identified in VK-16 (Figure 4a).

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207 4. Interpretation and discussion

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209 4.1 Identification of tephra sources

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Filters from all studied cores contain significant volcanic glass that appears heterogeneous both in grain size and geochemistry and present variable spatial characteristics.

Taken as a whole, the composition of glass shards allows two prevailing and a third subsidiary populations to be distinguished. Trachytic shards are more abundant in the samples from peripheral EAP sites, which are characterised by coarser grain size. Dacitic shards occur in all sites but are dominating in the Central EAP samples, typically characterised by smaller particle size. This pattern already suggests that tephra transport and deposition could be controlled by different atmospheric dynamics over the Plateau. Although tephra transport is very different from background dust input onto the EAP (Narcisi et al., 2005), mineral dust investigations highlighted that the periphery of the ice sheet in fact is influenced by regional atmospheric circulation dynamics of the Western Ross Sea, while sites from the inner part of the EAP are more sensitive to long-range high-altitude transport above Antarctica (e.g., Delmonte et al., 2013).

224 Focusing on the geochemical signature of volcanic glass as a major criterion for source 225 identification, we first point out that compositional heterogeneity in a tephra horizon could 226 be related to magmatic differentiation during a single parent explosive episode or to coeval 227 deposition from separate events. Several examples of both types of tephra are known in Antarctic ice (e.g., Narcisi et al., 2016). Since alkaline (i.e. trachytic) composition and sub-228 229 alkaline (i.e. dacitic) composition typically pertain to different tectonic settings, here we 230 interpret co-existing trachytic and dacitic tephras in the studied samples as related to contemporaneous eruptions from independent sources. 231

232 Alkaline trachytic compositions are characteristic of Antarctic volcanoes, belonging to one of the largest active alkali rift systems of the world (Wovner, 1989). Indeed, the identified 233 trachytic glass shards, particularly copious in the filters from peripher 234 adjacent to Victoria Land volcanic provinces, is chemically very consistent with compositions 235 236 of the tephra layers in the TALDICE core originated from local sources during the last climatic 237 cycle (Narcisi et al., 2012, 2016, 2017) (Figure 4b). We therefore deduce that the trachytic 238 glass in the studied samples was produced by a local Antarctic explosive eruption occurred at AD 1259. The coarse particle size observed at TD which is ~ 200 km distant from the inferred 239 source area, further sumerts this interpretation. This event dispersed material mostly over 240 the adjacent ice sheet region, but the ash deposition involved also more inland areas of the 241 242 EAP, as the occurrence of sporadic trachytic shards in the VK samples demonstrates. Infrequent ash layers of Antarctic derivation in long cores from the EAP have been already 243 244 observed within the last four glacial-interglacial cycle ice series (e.g., Narcisi et al., 2010). We 245 infer that the Antarctic volcanic plume entered into the polar vortex circulation and then 246 rapidly reached the inner sectors of the Plateau. Based on the available data, it is unclear 247 whether the plume from the AD 1259 Antarctic eruption dispersed particulate material onto 248 the SP area. In the early tephra investigation by Palais et al. (1992), no trace of trachytic glass 249 is reported for the Antarctic ice core. That tephra study however, was based upon the analysis of a handful of volcanic particles, representing a limitation for the detection of 250 251 compositional heterogeneity and multiple fingerprints within individual horizons. Finally, 252 similarly to other local eruptions, this Antarctic event likely delivered sulphate aerosols, but 253 this is difficult to detect as it is combined with the coincidental broad signal peaking at AD 254 1259 related to long-range stratospheric transport and deposition of aerosols and generated during an extra-Antarctic source event (see discussion below). Note that examples of circa-255 256 coeval multiple eruptions manifesting as a single volcanic signal are known in the Antarctic ice record (Cole-Dai and Mosley-Thompson, 1999; Cole-Dai et al., 2000). They represent tricky 257 258 case studies for estimation of atmospheric aerosol loadings by related eruptions, with 259 implications for assessment of the real impact on climate (e.g., Timmreck et al., 2009).

260 Our discovery of Antarctic-sourced tephra associated with the AD 1259 acidic deposition is 261 remarkable given the postulated tropical source of the eruption responsible for this polar 262 signal (e.g., Sigl et al., 2015). Nevertheless it is not particularly surprising considering that Antarctic volcanoes from Victoria Land and Mariq Byrd Land show evidence of Holocene-263 historical activity and ice cores drilled adjacent $\overline{\nabla}$ volcanoes contain numerous locally 264 265 derived discrete tephra layers, sometimes in the form of invisible horizons, as a result of persistent explosive activity (e.g., Kurbatov et al., 2006; Narcisi et al., 2012). In this respect, 266 267 we point out that the local eruption identified here does not correspond to the Antarctic 268 event dated 1254 ± 2 AD that produced widespread tephra deposition over most of the 269 Pacific-facing sector of Antarctica (Narcisi and Petit, 2018, and references therein). At TD and 270 GV7 in fact this eruption occurs as both coarse visible ash and a sharp sulphate spike 271 standing well above the background values and clearly preceding the AD 1259 volcanic peak 272 (e.g., Narcisi et al., 2001; Severi et al., 2012). The newly identified event neither corresponds to the local eruption at AD 1261 detected as both volcanic sulphate deposition and a large 273 274 particle concentration peak in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) Divide ice core (Koffman et 275 al., 2013) that clearly follows the AD 1259 signal. Therefore, within a decade three distinct 276 local events took place in the Antarctic mainland that left tangible fallout traces in the ice 277 sheet. Such rapid succession of eruptions could be overlooked in low time resolution studies 278 and instead needs to be carefully considered when addressing the attribution of Antarctic 279 ice-core signals, as having implications for reconstructions of volcanic forcing.

280 The main sub-alkaline component of dacitic composition is genetically linked to subduction-281 related volcanism. Differently from the trachytic glass, it is not straightforward to identify the 282 source responsible for this tephra. The distant geographic location of the EAP with respect to subduction provinces provides no clues, and the tiny particle size of the volcanic material in 283 284 the Central EAP ice suggests long-distance transport, thus enlarging the suite of potential 285 source areas to be considered to the whole Southern Hemisphere and even beyond the 286 Equator. Note in this respect that although not very frequently, ash produced in equatorialtropical volcanoes could have reached Antarctica during past eruptions, as in the case of 287 288 Pinatubo (15°14'N) tephra (2-10 µm) identified in the 1993-94 snow layers at South Pole after 289 the 1991 eruption (Cole-Dai et al., 1997). In the search for possible sources for the dacitic 290 tephra, we therefore considered an extended inventory of volcanoes. A thorough discussion 291 of this piece of our work is presented in Supplementary Material.

292 The recently discovered volcanic eruption of Samalas in the Indonesian Archipelago (8°33'S) 293 was suggested as the most probable source for the AD 1259 polar spike, due to its 294 exceptional size (estimated VEI and maximum plume height 7 and 43 km, respectively) and appropriate date (Lavigne et al., 2013; Vidal et al., 2015, 2016; Alloway et al., 2017). 295 296 Indeed, we found positive chemical match with Samalas products over all constituent 297 elements considered (Figure 4b). Thus, the striking geochemical similarities between the Samalas glass and the ice core dacitic glass population along with the significant differences 298 299 between the ice core glass and products from other potential sources (Figure S2) led us to 300 conclude that our dacitic glass material was sourced from the Samalas AD 1257 eruption. Note that this volcanic material is also chemically coherent with glass shards formerly found 301 302 in Greenland and SP ice cores (Palais et al., 1992) suggesting a common source eruption 303 (Figure 4b). The cataclysmic AD 1257 Samalas explosive eruption clearly ranks among the 304 greatest volcanic events of the Holocene. Once injected into the stratosphere up to about 40 305 km (Vidal et al., 2015), the Samalas tephra particles must have been transported poleward. 306 Volcanic particles are supposed to settle in the lower stratosphere and accumulate just 307 above the tropopause, similarly to ¹⁰Be and sulphate. Then, when stratosphere/troposphere 308 exchange of mass and chemical species occurs above Antarctica, sedimentation of volcanic aerosols proceeds within the troposphere = it the ice sheet surface. The whole process 309 likely occurred on a timescale of 1-2 years, as indicated by the time shift between the 310 311 eruption and deposition. Evidence for stratospheric transport of volcanic ash to Central EAP 312 in association with strong explosive eruptions is not new. At Vostok, it has been observed 313 (Delmonte et al., 2004) that small particles with modal values around 1.5-1.7 µm are associated **=** stratospheric 314 generally ash entering the troposphere during stratosphere/troposphere folding, jointly with sulphate and likely ¹⁰Be. We believe that in 315 316 case of injection of large quantities of volcanic ash to great heights in the stratosphere also 317 some relatively large particles can be transported in the stratosphere at great distance from the source, as suggested by presence of some large dacitic glasses in VK-14 sample. 318

319 A limited subset of glass analyses from a Vostok sample indicate distinctive high-silica rhyolitic composition with sub-alkaline affinity (Figure 4a). In the TAS diagram, this evolved 320 component appears separated from the two main glass populations previously discussed, 321 322 suggesting a different source. Note that this rhyolitic glass was not detected in the samples from the peripheral sites characterised by conspicuous deposition of locally-originated 323 324 trachytic ash, suggesting that it is likely unrelated to the newly identified Antarctic eruption. 325 Indeed, no such composition is known in the recent volcanic record from Antarctic centres 326 (Dunbar et al., 2008; Narcisi et. al, 2012) and neither in the Samalas products (Vidal et al. 327 2015; Alloway et al., 2017). We therefore infer that this glass could be originated from a further distant event that contributed to the ice-core tephra. Interestingly, this interpretation 328 329 could be in accordance with previous investigations in the WAIS Divide ice core that show 330 that the stratospheric microparticle deposition during the year 1258 occurred in two pulses 331 (Koffman et al., 2013), thus hinting for the possible contribution of two quasi-coeval tropical 332 volcanic eruptions.

333 In the Southern Hemisphere, rhyolitic products related to subduction processes occur at 334 some active Andean volcanoes and especially in the volcanic centres of New Zealand (~ 39°S, 335 ca. 6000 km from the Vostokeite in direct line), whereas rarely were erupted from West Antarctic intraplate volcanoes with the reproduction of the reprod 336 compared to glasses of American, temporary volcanoes; they are also characterised by 337 338 CaO and FeO contents < 1 wt%, more typical of New Zealand rhyolitic glasses than of the Antarctic (Marie Byrd Land) ones found in the marine realm (Shane and Froggatt, 1992) 339 (Figure S3). Although we are aware that some Andean centres may have been more 340 341 geochemically evolved than $\not {\mathbf{X}}$ is currently remented in literature data, none of the considered volcanoes appear compositionally coherent with our ice-core tephra sub-342 343 population (Figure S3).

Considering the recent tephra record of New Zealand volcanoes, we observe that ice-core glass mimics the chemical composition of Kaharoa Tephra, which represents the only rhyolitic deposit during the last 1000 years in the region (Nairn et al., 2004, Lowe et al., 2013) (Figure S3). This plinian eruption however is precisely dated to AD 1314 ± 12 (Lowe et al., 2013, and references therein), thus is ca. 50 years younger than the polar spike (Lowe and Higham, 1998). Therefore, despite the geochemical similarities, the significant age difference prevents this correlation. We conclude that the source for the identified rhyolitic glass, likely 351 located outside the Antarctic continent, remains undecided. Nevertheless, the New Zealand 352 volcanic province represents the most frequently active rhyolitic zone on Earth (e.g., Smith et 353 al., 2005) and is a suitable source of tephra in Antarctica, despite only one New Zealand 354 tephra layer in Antarctic ice has been identified so far (Dunbar et al., 2017). Our intriguing 355 finding could hopefully provide a hint for future investigations.

356

357 4.2 Implications

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359 Volcanic eruptions are drivers of transient weather and climate disturbances (e.g., Robock, 360 2000). The possible climate-forcing produced by the Samalas event, the most powerful 361 eruption of the last millennium, has been addressed in several papers using various proxy archives and historical documents, along with estimate of the release of gas during the 362 363 eruption based upon an independent geochemical approach. The volatile emissions standing as the greatest volcanogenic gas injection of the last few millennia were enough to produce 364 365 global cooling (Vidal et al., 2016). Indeed, considerable environmental and social postvolcanic effects were reconstructed that along the Central Indonesian archipelago affected 366 also vast regions of Europe (Guillet et al., 2107; Alloway et al., 2017). According to Gennaretti 367 et al. (2014), tree-ring-based temperature reconstruction from northeastern North America 368 displays an abrupt cooling regime shift that chronologically coincides with the occurrence of 369 370 a series of eruptions centred around the AD 1257 Samalas event suggesting volcanic impact on the local forests and ice-caps. Moreover, indirect geological sources show occurrence of 371 an El Ni 372 suggests causal connection between the volcanic event and the climate anomaly (Emile-373 Geay et al., 2008; Alloway et al., 2017). In the Antarctic record, the 13th century appears 374 exceptionally rich in conspicuous volcanic signals, with the AD 1259 being the most 375 376 prominent (e.g., Cole-Dai et al., 2000). Possible effects of volcanic activity around the date of 377 1259 have been invoked also for high southern latitudes, but the data are still very sparse. 378 Using a combination of firn/ice core records, Frezzotti et al. (2013) identified middle 13th 379 century as the onset of a 50yrs-long period of negative surface mass balance of the Antarctic 380 ice she factors volcanic forcing, superimposing (Frezzotti et al., 2013). 381

Results of ice-core tephra studies presented here and elsewhere (Koffman et al., 2013; Narcisi 382 and Petit, 2018, and references therein) collectively have shown for the first time that three 383 distinct Antarctic eruptions took place in the time span of a decade between AD 1254 ± 2 and 384 385 AD 1261. These eruptions produced deposition of tephra blanket and atmospheric sulphate aerosols onto the polar ice sheet. In the ice volcanic record local eruptions typically emitting 386 only tropospheric sulphate are represented by strong but short-lived residence times of 387 388 aerosols in the atmosphere (e.g., Castellano et al., 2005). This pattern suggests that such individual events most likely are incapable of significant large-scale climatic impact. 389 390 However, here we raise equestion about the potential consequences of this closely spaced 391 local eruption sequence occurred in association with the tropical Samalas eruption, on the 392 Antarctic climate and environment. Note that owing to the close proximity to the source 393 region the local forcing would be exerted through both the radiative impacts of gas and 394 particulate aerosols and the reduction in ice surface albedo produced by repeated extensive 395 tephra deposition. With respect to the latter factor, recent estimations have shown the significance of volcanic ash deposition onto snow/ice even from mid-sized eruptions at high-396

397 latitudes to alter surface reflectivity and enhance glacier melting (e.g., Dadic et al., 2013; 398 Young et al., 2014; Muschitiello et al., 2017). Given the continuous sustained explosive activity 399 of the Antarctic volcanoes with related large production of tephra and consequent dispersal 400 over the Plateau due to favourable atmospheric conditions (e.g., Scarchilli et al., 2011), we 401 believe that the potential role of forcing caused by locally-derived ash deposits should not be 402 neglected in Antarctic palaeoclimate reconstructions. This factor deserves further more

403 specific investigation in future research.

404 With respect to sulphate emission, unfortunately the available data currently do not permit 405 to distinguish between the contribution to the aerosol deposition from the Samalas event and the AD 1259 local Antarctic eruption. These limitations notwithstanding, at this stage we 406 407 can remark that in Antarctica two distinct volcanic forcings (one tropical and the other of 408 high southern-latitude) may be superimposed around the date of 1259. In conclusion, our 409 results add complexity to interpretation of volcanic aerosol yields from polar records and could have implications for more reliable climate model simulations for the pre-instrumental 410 411 period (Schneider et al., 2009; Stoffel et al., 2015, and references therein).

412 **5.** Conclusions

Non-visible tephra deposits trapped within polar snow and ice represent precious 413 chronostratigraphic tools. When the material is found associated with a prominent acidic 414 415 signal, firm attribution to specific eruptions can be given with implications for climate forcing reconstructions. However, tephra detection and fingerprinting is such remote locations is 416 often problematic. We successfully used four cores collected from different sites in the EAP to 417 418 demonstrate extensive deposition of volcanic dust on the ice/sheet coeval with the large 419 acidity peak at AD 1259, a key time stratigraphic horizon of inter-hemispheric significance. 420 Our compelling data show that the material displays different characteristics from site to site. Geochemical fingerprinting of tephra, obtained with a grain-specific methodology, 421 422 indicates that altogether multiple distinct explosive events have contributed to the ice core 423 ash deposition, i.e. a newly-identified Antarctic eruption in AD 1259, the great AD 1257 424 eruption of Samalas, and a further eruption likely occurred somewhere outside Antarctica. 425 Indeed, spatial variations reflecting different atmospher <u>rculation patterns over the EAP</u> 426 were significant in the volcanic deposition on the ice sheet and should not be discounted in 427 order to obtain sound source attribution of volcanic signals in polar sequences. We therefore 428 underline the need of detailed studies based upon a multi-site and parameter approach as 429 well as a large number of chemical analyses for capturing complexities inside tephra. Our 430 results of the chemical composition of hundreds of microscopic particles confirm the inferred 431 linkage of the Antarctic ice signal with the Samalas tropical eruption occurred in AD 1257, but also provide evidence for a coincidental cluster of local explosive events, so far not 432 433 adequately considered in climate reconstructions derived by ice-core volcanic aerosol records. Local activity instead was important in shaping the Antarctic volcanic record and 434 should be regarded as an agent of potential regional disturbances, not least through 435 dispersion of ash over large areas with consequent radiative impact. We emphasise the 436 437 potential of tephra investigations with respect to traditional measurements of aerosol concentrations in ice also for identifying superimposition of distinct contemporary events at 438 439 a single site. Our findings also contribute to a more complete reconstruction of the history of volcanic activity in the Antarctic region. 440

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442

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462 **Figure captions**

Figure 1. (a) AD 1259 signal (as sulphate in mg/L, or electrical conductivity, ECM, in arbitrary units) in the studied Antarctic cores. TALDICE sulphate profile redrawn from Severi et al. (2012), GV7 sulphate profile courtesy of R. Nardin. Also shown is the position of samples analysed for grain size and geochemistry (grey shaded blocks). The dashed line indicates 'bag' section limit and/or core break. (b) Map of Antarctica with location of the ice cores and main Quaternary volcanoes in Victoria Land (e.g., Mt. Erebus, Mt. Melbourne and The Pleiades) and in Marie Byrd Land, West Antarctica (e.g., Mt. Takahe and Mt. Berlin).

Figure 2. Mass-size distributions (Relative Units, R.U., %) of samples analysed for geochemistry. (A): Central EAP samples from Dome C (DC 71-a) and Vostok BH6 (VK-30-14 and VK-30-16) ice cores. (B): TD samples 87-1, 86-4, 86-3, 86-2 from the base to the top of the volcanic sulphate spike.

- 474
- Figure 3. Scanning electron microphotographs of volcanic glass particles from a, DC-71a; b-c,
 VK-14; d-e, TD-87-1; f, TD-86-4.

477 Figure 4. (a) Total alkali-silica (TAS) classification diagram and alkaline/sub-alkaline division 478 line (Rickwood, 1989, and references therein) showing the normalised analyses of ice-core 479 shards. Ph= Phonolite, An = Andesite, T = Trachyte, D = Dacite, Rh = Rhyolite. In the inset the 480 TAS diagram with envelopes for the three glass compositional sub-populations is illustrated. 481 (b) The TAS classification diagram as above showing the whole data set (in grey-scale) compared with glass geochemical analyses for the most likely correlatives (data from 482 483 Alloway et al., 2017; Narcisi et al., 2012, 2016, 2017; Palais et al., 1992). Geochemical 484 comparison with further potential sources is provided in Supplementary Material.

Figure 5. Total alkali-silica (TAS) classification diagram and alkaline/sub-alkaline division line (Rickwood, 1989, and references therein) for the normalised analyses of ice-core shards in the four TD samples. Data of pertinent samples are superimposed upon the whole data set (in grey-scale) for comparative purposes. Ph = Phonolite, An = Andesite, T = Trachyte, D = Dacite, Rh = Rhyolite. For the stratigraphic position of samples with respect to the AD 1259 ice-core volcanic signal see Fig. 1.

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492 **Captions for Supplementary Tables and Figures**

- 493 Table S1. Location and characteristics of the studied ice cores.
- 494 Table S2. Composition of reference glasses and Samalas samples measured at different495 analytical conditions.
- 496

Table S3. Representative major element composition of individual glass shards determined
by electron microprobe analysis. Values are given in weight % oxide and are normalised to
100%. Total iron is expressed as FeO. MnO not determined. Glass populations as defined in
the main text.

502 Figure S1. World map showing the location of Antarctic ice core sites (blue dots) and of

selected volcanic sources considered in the text (red triangles). Letters for sources are as
follows. CH, Chaitén; EC, El Chichón; HU, Hudson; MBL, Marie Byrd Land; NZ, New Zealand;
PCC, Puyehue-Cordon Caulle; QU, Quilotoa; SM, Samalas; SSh, South Shetland Islands; SSI,
South Sandwich Islands; VL, Victoria Land.

Figure S2. Monte Carlo simulation of the interaction and emission volumes of X-rays at 10kV
 for Na-K^Δ in Na-Si rich glass considered as A) common polished sample and B) small 1x1 µm
 particle placed on the C-glue. The blue lines show the electron trajectory outside the particle.

510

511 Figure S3. Major element biplots for the analysed ice-core shards (in grey-scale) compared 512 with glass geochemical analyses for selected potential sources and counterparts (data from

513 Moreno et al., 2015; Fontijn et al., 2016; Nairn et al., 2004; Kratzmann et al., 2009; Moreno et

al., 2015; Nooren et al., 2017; Stewart and Castro, 2016; Shane and Froggatt, 1992). Location

of considered source volcanoes is shown in Supplementary Figure S1.

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Fig. 3. Scanning electron microphotographs of volcanic glass particles from a, DC-71a; b-c, VK-14; d-e, TD87-1; f, TD86-4.







toward the upper part of the AD 1259 volcanic spike

1 Supplementary Material for

2

- 3 MULTIPLE SOURCES FOR TEPHRA FROM AD 1259 VOLCANIC SIGNAL IN ANTARCTIC ICE CORES
- 4
 5 Biancamaria Narcisi¹, Jean Robert Petit², Barbara Delmonte³, Valentina Batanova⁴, Joël
 6 Savarino²
- 7
 8 (1) ENEA, C.R. Casaccia, 00123 Roma, Italy, biancamaria.narcisi@enea.it
- 10 (2) Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, IRD, Grenoble INP, IGE, 38000 Grenoble, France
- (3) Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT), Univ. Milano-Bicocca, Piazza della Scienza, 20126
 Milano, Italy
- 13 (4) Univ. Grenoble Alpes, Univ. Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS, IRD, IFSTTAR, ISTerre, 38000 Grenoble, France

Drilling Site/Ice core	Short name	Location,ele vation a.s.l.	Accumulation rate (mm we year ⁻¹)	Drilling period	Reference	Present sample resolution (cm)
Concordia Station at Dome C	DC	75°06'S, 123°20'E, 3220 m	~25	2013-14	Schwander et al. (2001)	7
Vostok/BH6	VK	78°28'S, 106°48'E, 3488 m	~20	1991-92	Osipov et al. (2014)	5
Talos Dome/TALDICE	TD	72°49'S, 159°11'E, 2315 m	~80	2004-05	Severi et al. (2012)	5
GV7	GV7	70°41'S, 158°52'E, 1950 m	~240	2013-14	Frezzotti et al. (2007) Caiazzo et al. (2017)	15

- 15 Table S1. Location and characteristics of the studied ice cores





Figure S1. World map showing the location of Antarctic ice core sites (blue dots) and of selected volcanic sources considered in the text (red triangles). Letters for sources are as follows. CH, Chaitén; EC, El Chichón; HU, Hudson; MBL, Marie Byrd Land; NZ, New Zealand; PCC, Puyehue-Cordon Caulle; QU, Quilotoa; SM, Samalas; SSh, South Shetland Islands; SSI, South Sandwich Islands; VL, Victoria Land

25 Details of microprobe analysis

26

27 Although tephra embedding and polishing should be preferred for microprobe analysis, this was 28 not possible here due to the small amount of material and its very fine grain size. Therefore, 29 single-grain geochemical analysis was carried out on unpolished samples using a JEOL JXA-8230 30 electron microprobe set up at the Institut des Sciences de Terre (ISTerre) of Grenoble. For 31 analysis of small (1-3 μ m) and thin (< 2 μ m) unpolished tephra shards the analytical protocol 32 with simultaneous WDS/EDS signal acquisition has been applied. We run Ti, Na, Mg, K, and Fe on 33 WD spectrometers and Si, Ca, Al, on ED spectrometers. The following analytical conditions have 34 been used: accelerating voltage 10kV, probe beam current 2 nA and beam diameter 1 µm. The 35 low accelerating voltage was selected to reduce X-ray excitation volume. Natural and synthetic 36 minerals and glasses were used for standardisation: StHs6/80-G (Si, Al, Ca) and GOR132-G (Fe) 37 synthetic glasses (Jochum et al, 2000 and GEOREM database), pure synthetic MgO (Mg), synthetic rutile (Ti), albite (Na), orthoclase (K). During analytical sessions the reference materials 38 39 StHs6/80-G, ATHO-G (Jochum et al., 2000) and KE-12 (Metrich and Rutherford, 1992) ran as 40 unknowns after each 40-50 analytical points to evaluate analytical accuracy and precision. Even 41 at current as low as 2 nA the migration of sodium could be significant if the diameter of the 42 electron beam is small (1 µm). The results of analysis of reference glasses and polished tephra samples analysed at traditional (Acc. voltage 15kV, probe current 5nA, beam diameter 5 µm, e.g. 43 44 Narcisi et al., 2016) and non-traditional (Acc. voltage 10kV, beam current 2nA, probe diameter 1 45 μ m, this study) are in Table S2. We estimate that Na loss for polished samples analysed by 1 μ m beam and non-traditional analytical conditions described above corresponds to 25% relative for 46 samples with 4-7 wt% of Na₂O and 67-75 wt% of SiO₂ (ATHO-G, KE-12, and samples RIN1392E 47 48 and RIN1392A related to the AD 1257 Samalas medial tephra, Vidal et al., 2015) (Table S2). As it 49 has been shown in several studies (e.g. Nielsen and Sigurdsson, 1981; Spray and Rae, 1995; 50 Morgan and London, 1996) sodium migration from the excitation volume is a result of heating of the area of analysis by electron beam. According to Spray and Rae (1995) sodium migrates 51 52 downward to space-charge layer within the sample. Figure S2 shows Monte Carlo electron 53 trajectory simulation of the interaction volume as well as Na-K α generation and emission 54 volumes for 10kV in common polished sample and unpolished 1x1 µm particle on filter. These 55 figures demonstrated how electron beam penetrates the samples of the different morphology. As follows from the modelling in case of analysis of small shards the Na migration does not take 56 57 place because of small sample size. Analysis of small tephra shards often displayed low 58 analytical total (30-60%). Low and variable totals of analysis are result of small size of analytical 59 area (smaller than excitation volume) (Figure S2-B). The analytical precision for the selected 60 analytical conditions is in Table S2. While the analytical precision at 10 kV and 2 nA for the most 61 analysed oxides is significantly lower than for traditional conditions it is still within reasonable 62 error (5-15%).



Figure S2. Monte Carlo simulation of the interaction and emission volumes of X-rays at 10kV for Na-K α in Na-Si rich

glass considered as A) common polished sample and B) small 1x1 μm particle placed on the C-glue. The blue lines
 show the electron trajectory outside the particle.

Sample	Reference	Analytical conditions	N	SiO2	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeOtot	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Total
StHs6/80-G	this work	10kV, 2nA, 1 μm	15	63,56	0,69	17,61	4,46		1,95	5,38	4,33	1,29	99,28
±				0,45	0,10	0,33	0,26		0,11	0,33	0,30	0,04	
StHs6/80-G	this work	15kV, 5nA, 5 μm	15	63,73	0,69	17,86	4,29	0,08	1,94	5,26	4,62	1,28	99,75
±				0,21	0,01	0,18	0,08	0,03	0,04	0,06	0,12	0,03	
StHs6/80-G	Jochum et al. (2000) (a)			63,70	0,70	17,80	4,37	0,08	1,97	5,28	4,44	1,29	99,63
95%CL				0,50	0,02	0,20	0,07	0,00	0,04	0,09	0,14	0,02	
ATHO-G	this work	10kV, 2nA, 1 μm	12	75,64	0,26	11,95	3,14		0,09	1,72	2,79	2,61	98,20
±				0,59	0,04	0,21	0,27		0,03	0,25	0,47	0,08	
ATHO-G	this work	15kV, 5nA, 5 μm	12	75,88	0,24	12,30	3,14	0,11	0,09	1,71	3,98	2,64	100,08
±				0,32	0,02	0,21	0,06	0,03	0,01	0,03	0,10	0,04	
ATHO-G	Jochum et al. (2000) (a)			75,60	0,26	12,20	3,27	0,11	0,10	1,70	3,75	2,64	99,62
95%CL				0,70	0,02	0,20	0,10	0,01	0,01	0,03	0,31	0,09	
KE-12	this work	10kV, 2nA, 1 μm	12	71,56	0,32	7,92	8,93		0,01	0,39	5,36	4,09	98,60
±				0,45	0,08	0,20	0,45		0,02	0,20	0,23	0,09	
KE-12	this work	15kV, 5nA, 5 μm	12	71,01	0,30	7,84	8,30	0,26	0,03	0,37	7,01	4,23	99,35
±				0,33	0,01	0,11	0,08	0,03	0,02	0,01	0,17	0,04	
KE-12	Metrich and Rutherford (1992) (b)			70,30	0,33	7,60	8,36	0,26	nd	0,35	7,28	4,27	98,75
KE-12	Vidal et al. (2015) (c)		5	69,93	0,33	7,64	8,47	0,31	0,03	0,37	6,91	4,26	98,25
±				0,38	0,05	0,22	0,20	0,08	0,01	0,03	0,34	0,04	
RIN1392E	this work	10kV, 2nA, 1 μm	41	68,25	0,45	15,19	2,43		0,58	1,67	2,90	4,10	96,29
±				0,93	0,06	0,38	0,25		0,11	0,28	0,50	0,24	
RIN1392E	this work	15kV, 5nA, 5 μm	26	68,38	0,45	15,41	2,40	0,12	0,58	1,67	4,52	4,45	97,97
±				0,48	0,01	0,27	0,09	0,02	0,09	0,09	0,29	0,11	
RIN1392E	Vidal et al. (2015) (c)		10	70,09	0,47	15,65	2,51	0,14	0,60	1,80	3,52	4,39	99,17
±				0,69	0,07	0,28	0,10	0,07	0,05	0,21	0,47	0,22	
RIN1392A	this work	10kV, 2nA, 1 μm	48	67,95	0,45	16,05	2,81		0,74	2,22	3,59	3,99	98,68
±				0,65	0,07	0,26	0,22		0,07	0,25	0,35	0,10	
RIN1392A	this work	15kV, 5nA, 5 μm	48	67,67	0,45	16,16	2,66	0,12	0,72	2,18	4,73	4,11	98,81
±				0,49	0,02	0,21	0,07	0,02	0,02	0,05	0,19	0,06	
RIN1392A	Vidal et al. (2015) (c)		16	68,24	0,46	16,11	2,70	0,11	0,73	2,22	4,69	4,16	99,42
±				0,77	0,07	0,31	0,12	0,05	0,04	0,13	0,19	0,11	
Notes: Oxide	s reported in wt%. N - number of ar	alyses. Reproducil	oility (±) is sho	wn as 1	standa	rd deviat	tion of a	verage.				

Table S2.	Composition of r	eference glasses and	Samalas tephra sa	mples	measur	ed at di	ifferent a	analytica	I conditi	ons

Table S2. Composition of reference glasses and Samalas tephra samples measured at different analytical conditions.

73 Potential sources for the ice-core dacitic glass population

74 Our attempt over identification was based upon comparison with bibliographic information 75 for volcanoes that have been active during post-glacial times. We considered as constraining 76 77 features the chronostratigraphy of the deposits, the character of volcanic activity and the 78 chemical signature of the material. However, a matching source depends on the data available 79 incomplete or poorly age constrained. The possibility that our tephra may represent a hitherto 80 81 unknown eruption in the proximal sequence cannot be entirely excluded. As for chemical 82 features of deposits from proximal contexts, in order to avoid misleading correlations we took 83 into account only sources for which single-shard microprobe data are available. We consider in 84 fact bulk-rock analyses of near-vent samples, often affected by the presence of minerals on 85 xenoliths, unsuitable for comparison with the present shard-specific dataset. However, we are 86 aware that proximal and distal tephra components of the same eruption may have slightly 87 different compositions and this may represent a further problem of our approach. On the other 88 hand, here we considered a large set of possible volcanic sources within and surrounding the 89 Antarctic continent, more extended than that employed in previous studies. This strategy, 90 requiring scrutiny of a high number of relevant published papers, allowed us to confidently rule 91 out clearly dissimilar sources and to ascribe the investigated ice-core tephra to the parent 92 eruption.

93

Figure S1 illustrates location of a few volcanoes considered in this discussion. Graphical
 comparison of the composition of individual ice-core shards with glass analyses from proximal
 source deposits (Figure S3) supports the following considerations.

97 Regardless of age of proximal activity, we could readily exclude volcanism of South Sandwich 98 Islands (SSI) in the Southern Atlantic Ocean, producing several tephras preserved in Central EAP 99 (e.g., Narcisi et al., 2010, and references therein), because of its low-K tholeiitic nature (e.g., 100 Nielsen et al., 2007), as well as volcanoes in the South Shetland Islands (Antarctic Peninsula 101 region) that display predominantly basaltic and base c andesitic compositions (Kraus et al., 102 2013; Antoniades et al., 2018). Both provinces are clearly dissimilar in composition with the ice-103 core glass.

Careful attention was paid to post-glacial volcanoes of the Andean belt representing very efficient producers of sub-alkaline (calc-alkaline) tephra. These could be eligible candidates considering that the westerly atmospheric circulation penetrating the EAP favours the rapid transport and deposition of dust and tephra from South America to Antarctica (e.g., Pitts and Thomason, 1993; Delmonte et al., 2008; Narcisi et al., 2012; Koffman et al., 2017). On the basis of numerous studies over the last decades, the eruptive chronologies of many of these volcanic centres are well constrained, thus helping us to rule out a number of them.

In particular, in the Southern and Austral Volcanic Zones of the Andes (latitudes between 33 to 55°S) about 20 volcanoes produced explosive eruptions with significant regional or even hemispheric impact (Fontijn et al., 2014). However, the largest Holocene explosive eruptions of volcanoes in the southernmost Andes producing regionally widespread tephra layers are dated back at least to 3 ka (Stern, 2008) and so are too old to be related with the studied tephra. Other volcanoes of the Southern Volcanic Zone that either are too old or do not show geological 117 evidence of energetic explosive activity in mid-13th century to be considered as likely sources are Calbuco (41°33'S, Watts et al., 2011), Mocho-Choshuenco (39°55'S, Rawson et al., 2015), 118 119 Quetrupillán (39°30' S, Fontjin et al., 2016), Sollipulli (38°58'S; Naranjo et al., 1993), Lonquimay 120 (38°22'S, Gilbert et al., 2014), Quizapu-Cerro Azul (35°39'S, Ruprecht et al., 2012) San Pedro 121 (36°S, Singer et al., 1997). Similarly, we can exclude volcanoes of the Central Volcanic Zone of 122 the Andes (latitudes between 14° and 29°S) characterised by high-K calc-alkaline compositions. 123 Here, the two last major explosive events were the 2-ka BP plinian eruption of El Misti volcano 124 (Thouret et al., 2001) and the AD 1600 eruption of Huaynaputina volcano (e.g., Lavallée et al., 2006), both inconsistent with age of the ice tephra sample. The remaining explosive activity was 125 126 small to moderate, so most likely not capable of dispersing ash onto the Antarctic ice sheet. 127 Farther north, also at the Andean volcanoes of Chimborazo (1°28'S, Barba et al., 2008) and Cotopaxi (0°38'S, Hall and Mothes, 2008) the recorded activity is not appropriate as either age or 128 129 character to suggest a linkage with our tephra. In the Northern Hemisphere, according to marine 130 tephrostratigraphy offshore the southern Central American Volcanic Arc (7-9 °N) documenting 131 explosive activity of Costa Rica and Nicaragua volcanoes, the most recent marker is 3.5 ka old 132 (Schindlbeck et al., 2016), thus much older than our ice-core tephra. Terrestrial volcanostratigraphies of Irazù (9°58'N, Benjamin et al., 2007), Apoyeque (12°14'N, Kutterolf et al., 133 2011) and Ilopango (13°67°N, Mehringer et al., 2005) do not show any suitable tephra deposit of 134 appropriate age. The voluminous eruption of El Metate (19°32'N, Mexico) dated at ~ AD 1250 was 135 purely effusive (Chevrel et al., 2015), making it an unlikely candidate. 136

We carried out a comparison between our glass-shard microprobe data and the composition of 137 selected calc-alkaline tephra sources active the last millennium (Figure S3). In particular, we 138 considered recent explosive products of the American volcanoes of Chaitén (42°49'S, Moreno et 139 al., 2015), Puyehue-Cordon Caulle (40°59'S, Mil Hojas tephra, modelled age 0.84 ± 0.18 cal ka BP, 140 Fontijn et al., 2016), Hudson (45°54'S, Kratzmann et al., 2009), Quilotoa (~ AD 1280, 0°51'S, 141 Stewart and Castro, 2016), El Chichón (6th-century deposits, 17°22'N, Nooren et al., 2017) along 142 with tephra erupted during the Kaharoa $\overline{=}$ t in New Zealand (AD 1314 ± 12; e.g., Nairn et al., 143 2004) and from Marie Byrd Land volcanoes found in the marine realm (Shane and Froggatt, 144 1992). It can be seen that none of these satisfactorily fit the dacitic chemistry of the ice-core 145 146 tephra component and consequently cannot be likely counterparts. Note that El Chichón 147 volcano was previously suggested as a probable source for the polar tephra in the South Pole 148 (SP) and Greenland ice cores (Palais et al., 1992). Although the El Chichón historic volcanic 149 record does not preclude this possibility (Espíndola et al., 2000), the present comparison 150 highlights appreciable compositional differences between the studied dacitic tephra and the 151 proximal volcanic deposits, thus excluding the former attribution.

We finally found positive chemical match between dacitic glass shards trapped within ice and products of AD 1257 Samalas volcanic eruption, the cataclysmic event occurred in the Indonesian Archipelago (8°33'S) and raising among the greatest volcanic events of the Holocene (e.g., Lavigne et al., 2013; Vidal et al. 2015, 2016; Alloway et al., 2017) (Figure 4b, main text). Note that our chemical results are also serent with microprobe data of Samalas samples analysed within this work (Table S2).



159 160

Figure S3. Major element biplots for the analysed ice-core shards (in grey-scale) compared with glass geochemical

161 analyses for selected potential sources and counterparts (data from Moreno et al., 2015; Fontijn et al., 2016; Nairn et

al., 2004; Kratzmann et al., 2009; Nooren et al., 2017; Stewart and Castro, 2016; Shane and Froggatt, 1992). Location
 of considered source volcanoes is shown in Supplementary Figure S1.

			_								
Analytical session May 2015	DC 71-a	SiO ₂	TIO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeO _{tat}	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Original Total	Glass pop.
	1259_1-p3	67,57	0,60	15,68	4,41	0,94	2,65	4,24	3,91	60,66	dacitic
	1259_1-p6 1259_1-p10	67,27	0,56	15,31	4,33	0,68	2,27	5,16	4,42	64,67	dacitic
	1259_1-p14	68,86	0,55	15,72	2,82	0,68	1,90	4,75	4,71	67,51	dacitic
December 2015	1259_1-p16	68,37	0,47	15,52	3,22	0,98	2,13	4,68	4,62	67,86	dacitic
	1259_p6	69,33	0,51	15,68	3,44	0,77	2,02	4,44	3,81	77,58	dacitic
	1259_p13 1259_p16	67,32	0,59	15,59	3,29	0,90	2,69	5,21	4,41	72,66	dacitic
	1259_p19	68,41	0,62	16,05	3,44	0,94	2,25	4,19	4,09	72,85	dacitic
	1259_p20 1259_p31	67,47	0,53	16,78	3,17	0,84	2,52	4,69	4,01	91,60	dacitic
	1259_p40	68,47	0,51	14,76	3,78	1,05	2,29	4,65	4,49	61,73	dacitic
	1259_p42 1259_p44	69,05	0,39	15,07	3,64	0,89	2,16	4,68	4,12	67,41	dacitic
Analytical session	VK -14	SIO ₂	TIO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeOral	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Original Total	Glass pop.
Dotober 2016	BH6-30-14 p7	69.38	0.50	15.05	2.62	0.59	1.10	5.51	5.25	76.31	dacilic
	BH6-30-14_p8	70,33	0,43	15,96	2,56	0,65	1,81	4,04	4,22	90,59	dacitic
	BH6-30-14_p17 BH6-30-14_p26	68,72	0,44	15,61	2,80	0,79	2,43	4,96	4,24	77,77	dacitic
	BH6-30-14_p27	68,17	0,50	16,29	2,89	0,86	2,31	4,97	4,01	95,16	dacitic
	BH6-30-14_p50 BH6-30-14_p75	69,78	0,66	16,13	2,46	0,70	1,57	4,36	4,33	95,08	daotic
	BH6-30-14_p89	63,54	0,47	16,04	6,18	0,09	0,72	8,07	4,89	95,72	trachytic
	BH6-30-14_p90 BH6-30-14_p91	63,78	0,48	17,30	6,17	0,14	2,34	6,59	4,69	91,31	trachytic decitic
	BH6-30-14_p92	67,92	0,55	15,67	3,21	0,89	2,02	5,13	4,61	84,58	dacitic
	BH6-30-14_p110 BH6-30-14_p120	71,16	0,41	16,44	1,40	0,48	1,37	4,29	4,44	96,57	dacitic
	BH6-30-14_p146	68,56	0,56	16,12	2,79	1,15	2,17	4,46	4,19	90,30	dacitic
Analytical session	BH6-30-14_p153 VK -16	69,21 SIO-	0,45	16,04 AL-O-	2,54 FeO	0,65 MgD	2,50 CaO	4,54 Na-O	4,07 K-O	87,56 Original Total	Glass pop.
Dotober 2016											
	BH6-30-16_p10 BH6-30-16_p22	69,40	0,50	16,29	2,37	0,75	1,70	4,88	4,11	68,11	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p29	69,38	0,43	16,10	2,46	0,60	2,72	4,25	4,06	76,28	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p63 BH6-30-16_p68	77,19	0,18	12,70	0,43	0,02	0,68	3,43	5,38	69,81	rhyolitic
	BH6-30-16_p76	68,53	0,48	15,22	3,64	0,91	1,82	5,21	4,19	68,17	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p77	68,86	0,50	16,19	3,50	0,66	1,08	5,05	4,16	82,05	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p83	65,26	0,39	14,21	8,55	0,62	0,76	5,04	5,17	63,35	trachytic
	BH6-30-16_p87 BH6-30-16_p91	70,24	0,47	15,16	2,98	0,67	1,57	4,59	4,32	70,77	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p95	67,53	0,42	15,97	2,78	0,76	2,78	5,27	4,39	76,03	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p99	68,93	0,54	15,49	3,49	0,67	1,20	5,03	4,65	63,47	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p130	77,72	0,05	12,77	0,37	0,00	1,01	3,38	4,69	68,34	rhyolitic
	BH6-30-16_p134	67,55	0,61	15,51	3,85	0,70	2,28	5,23	4,26	73,56	dacitic
	BH6-30-16_p140	68,33	0,40	15,91	3,45	0,13	2,14	4,78	4,15	79,73	dacitic
Analytical session	TD 87-1	SIO ₂	TIO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeO _{tel}	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K20	Original Total	Glass pop.
December 2015	87-1-p27	63,69	0,24	17,06	4,07	0,06	1,42	7,63	5,82	90,22	trachytic
	87-1-p37	64,03	0,34	16,21	5,08	0,20	1,41	6,98	5,75	94,07	trachytic
	87-1-p42 87-1-p45	62,08	0,49	16,03	7,97	0,12	1,43	7,09	4,94	89,66	trachytic
	87-1-p47	61,35	0,61	15,99	6,23	0,34	3,09	7,75	4,63	95,15	trachytic
Analytical session	87-1-p50 TD 85-4	63,32 SIO-	0,43	16,57 AL-O-	6,80 FeO	0,07 MgD	0,79 CaO	6,52 Na-O	5,50 K-O	91,35 Original Total	Glass pop.
December 2015											
	86-4A-14 86-4A-15	69,18	0,46	15,67	2,75	0,89	2,20	2,63	4,28	86,15	dacitic
	86-4A-30	69,51	0,45	16,07	2,57	0,58	2,14	4,25	4,37	92,92	dacitic
	86-4A-34 86-4A-38	68,83	0,48	16,33	3,31	0,75	2,20	4,11	3,98	89,23	dacitic
	86-4A-51	68,56	0,49	15,70	2,97	0,76	2,18	4,75	4,59	83,72	dacitic
	86-4A-60	63,26	0,45	15,88	7,63	0,13	1,23	6,26	5,16	77,80	trachytic
	86-4A-65	69,54	0,46	15,69	2,89	0,75	2,21	4,27	4,19	92,31	dacitic
	86-4A-66	64,18	0,41	16,36	7,36	0,14	0,88	6,09	4,57	85,33	trachytic
	86-4A-89	64,13	0,41	16,37	6,20	0,10	0,80	6,76	5,23	75,48	trachytic
	86-4A-90	64,61	0,44	15,50	6,93	0,17	0,65	6,18	5,53	83,29	trachytic
Analytical session	TD 86-3	SIO ₂	TIO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeO	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Original Total	Glass pop.
December 2015	00.0-05	60.60	0.07	40.70	7.44	0.40	0.04	7.00		05.67	track die
	86-3a-27	62,06	0,27	16,70	7,05	0,12	0,98	8,31	4,85	95,57	trachytic
	86-3a-30	62,07	0,36	16,37	6,76	0,08	0,76	8,60	5,00	86,71	trachytic
	86-3a-66	63,06	0,37	16,00	7,78	0,03	0,86	7,48	4,42	67,57	trachytic
	86-3a-72	62,31	0,50	16,07	7,53	0,06	0,83	7,83	4,87	81,62	trachytic
Analytical session	TD 86-2	SIO	TIO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeOra	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K20	Original Total	Glass pop.
December 2015	20 04 7	64.70	0.47	45.04				7.04	6.70	00.05	been also all a
	86-2A-12	64,54	0,47	15,64	8,34	0,14	0,65	7,21	4,82	95,52	trachytic
	86-2A-13	69,21	0,68	15,23	3,06	0,77	1,20	5,32	4,54	62,11	dacitic
	86-2A-14 86-2A-20	65,09	0,43	17,62	6,62	0,05	0,85	5,32	4,02	95,45	trachytic trachytic
Analytical session	GV7 295-1	SIO ₂	TIO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeOral	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K20	Original Total	Glass pop.
Hebruary 2016	295-1-p12	68,43	0,45	16,67	3,05	0,86	2,20	4,43	3,91	98,29	dacitic
1	295-1-p24	64,92	0,46	17,70	6,21	0,07	0,73	5,40	4,50	100,14	trachytic
June 2016	295-1-ot27	62.78	0,48	16.50	6,18	0,11	0.64	8.21	5.08	91.29	trachytic
	295-1-pt31	65,06	0,22	17,98	4,77	0,00	1,39	5,46	5,12	68,02	trachytic
	295-1-pt56 295-1-pt66	64,57	0,11	16,83	5,50	0,07	1,00	7,01	4,92	89,80	trachytic trachytic
	295-1-pt67	70,93	0,59	15,66	2,95	0,68	1,61	3,38	4,21	88,51	dacitic
Analytical session February 2016	GV/ 294-4	SiO,	TIO ₂	AI ₂ O ₃	FeOral	MgO	CaO	Na,O	K,0	Original Total	Grass pop.
	294-4-p2	63,78	0,38	16,40	7,22	0,19	1,72	5,75	4,55	83,47	trachytic
	294-4-p3 294-4-p10	61,46	0,36	16,52	8,11	0,02	0,66	8,49	4,39	93,18	trachytic danitic
	294-4-p14	60,43	0,35	15,66	8,91	0,14	0,81	8,49	5,22	68,57	trachytic
June 2016	204.48	P4 27	A.47	48.01		0.07	4.07		4.77		here at a re-
	294-4A-pt15	64,65	0,48	16,94	3,00	0,08	2,54	3,81	3,88	96,13	dacitic
	294-4A-pt27	65,78	0,31	16,40	5,57	0,05	0,24	6,79	4,87	98,08	trachytic
	294-4A-pt29 294-4A-pt31	65,31	0,34	15,97	5,72	0,09	1,11	6,26	5,20	87,24	trachytic trachytic
	294-4A-pt39	62,68	0,33	15,51	8,05	0,04	0,39	8,62	4,38	91,73	trachytic
	294-4A-pt41 294-4A-pt48	62,36	0,33	16,85	6,53	0,09	0,95	8,08	4,80	95,77	dacitio
	294-4A-pt53	64,29	0,49	16,42	5,83	0,12	0,59	6,69	5,57	88,80	trachytic
	294-4A-pt54	62,98	0,41	16,30	6,39	0,17	1,36	7,15	5,24	97,86	trachytic
	294-4A-n651	63.04	0.25	17.05	6.57	0.05	0.72	7.22	6 10	99,59	trachutte

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165 Table S3. Representative major element composition of individual glass shards determined by electron microprobe

analysis. Values are given in weight % oxide and are normalised to 100%. Total iron is expressed as FeO. MnO not

167 determined. Glass populations as defined in the main text.

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