

Variability of ash deposits at Piton de la Fournaise (La Reunion Island): insights into fragmentation processes at basaltic shield volcanoes

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Simon Thivet, Lucia Gurioli, Andrea Di Muro, Julia Eychenne, Pascale Besson, et al.. Variability of ash deposits at Piton de la Fournaise (La Reunion Island): insights into fragmentation processes at basaltic shield volcanoes. Bulletin of Volcanology, 2020, 82 (63), 10.1007/s00445-020-01398-0. hal-02930441

HAL Id: hal-02930441 https://uca.hal.science/hal-02930441v1

Submitted on 4 Sep 2020

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- 2 processes at basaltic shield volcanoes
- 3
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14 Acknowledgments

- We thank J-L. Devidal and J-M. Hénot for their invaluable help with EPMA and SEM at LMV. We also thank the anonymous reviewers who helped us to improve the quality of the manuscript, as well as U. Kueppers and J. Taddeucci who handled the manuscript. This research was funded by ClerVolc, the French Government Laboratory of Excellence initiative n°425, the EUROVOLC and I-Site programs. The online version of this article
- 19 contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

20 Key-words

21 Ash; basaltic; fragmentation; grain size; Piton de la Fournaise; texture

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23

25 Abstract

26 It is commonly accepted that effusive activity emplaces the main emitted magmatic volume in basaltic 27 shield volcanoes. At Piton de La Fournaise (La Réunion Island, France), eruptive activity occurs mostly within the 28 non-populated Enclos Fouqué caldera and generally does not pose any risk to the population. However, historical 29 observations, recent monitoring data and field work on tephra deposits suggest that some eruptions have produced 30 unusual and unexpected explosive phases. A comprehensive sampling of tephra from major historical and recent 31 eruptions on this volcano allowed us to perform systematic componentry, grain size, chemical and morphological 32 analyses in order to characterize the eruptive dynamics involved in these explosive basaltic eruptions. This 33 integrative approach reveals highly variable characteristics of the studied tephra reflecting different fragmentation 34 efficiencies and multiple associated mechanisms. Primary ductile and partially brittle fragmentation of various 35 intensity of juvenile magma emitted during Hawaiian fountaining or mild Strombolian explosions were identified 36 as the most common fragmentation mechanisms, in particular during the 2014-2018 dominantly effusive eruptive 37 sequence. In parallel, we distinguished more efficient short-lived fragmentation events related to (i) plug 38 pressurization and brittle fragmentation enhanced by syn-eruptive crystallization, (ii) magma/water interactions, 39 (iii) rare phreatic explosions and (iv) secondary fragmentation producing fine ash during caldera collapse. We 40 conclude that textural, geochemical and morphological analysis make it possible to identify and characterize the 41 variability in eruptive processes, with the grain size and the componentry of the ash particles being probably the 42 most important parameters to quantify both the efficiency and the nature of the fragmentation.

43

44 1. Introduction and objectives

45 Basaltic shield volcanoes such as Kilauea (Hawai'i Island, USA) and Piton de la Fournaise (La Réunion Island, France; noted hereafter as PdF), are dominated by effusive activity often associated with low-energy 46 47 explosive Hawaiian to Strombolian eruptions (e.g. Houghton et al. 2016; Gurioli et al. 2018; Thivet et al. 2020a, 48 2020b). However, field evidences and recent syn-eruptive observations at basaltic volcanoes also highlight more 49 explosive events capable of producing fine-grained tephra, for instance at Etna (e.g. Taddeucci et al. 2002, 2004; 50 Andronico et al. 2008; Corsaro et al. 2017; Polacci et al. 2019), Stromboli (e.g. Ripepe et al. 2005; Polacci et al. 51 2009; Lautze et al. 2012), Kilauea (e.g. Dvorak 1992; Mastin 1997; Neal et al. 2019) and Piton de la Fournaise 52 (e.g. Michon et al. 2007, 2013; Staudacher et al. 2009, 2016; Ort et al. 2016). Ash-forming events, with their 53 widespread impacts, represent a different hazard from effusive activity. Ash eruptions can impact the areas close

54 to the vents where touristic activity is frequent, as well as the communities living downwind, leading to e.g. adverse 55 health effects for humans and animals, damage to crops, infrastructure and networks disruption, water 56 contamination (Horwell and Baxter 2006; Wilson et al. 2015). They also affect the airspace used by aviation (e.g. 57 Song et al. 2014; Guffanti and Tupper 2015). Ash-forming events are highly unexpected in basaltic settings and 58 the mechanisms controlling their occurrence are poorly constrained, making their forecasting challenging. To 59 improve our ability to predict such events and mitigate their impacts, it is thus essential to understand (i) what type 60 of fragmentation processes can produce ash (e.g. magmatic, phreatomagmatic, phreatic or volcano-tectonic), and 61 (ii) what are the characteristics of the associated deposits (e.g. componentry, texture, grain size, morphology).

62 Here, we investigate a range of fragmentation mechanisms that can occur at basaltic shield volcanoes, through the comprehensive study of several tephra deposits composed of lapilli (particle diameters between 64 63 64 and 2 mm) and ash (< 2 mm, with fine ash particles < 63μ m, according to the Schmid 1981 nomenclature). These 65 deposits, originated from prehistorical, historical and recent eruptions at Piton de la Fournaise (PdF), and cover a 66 wide range of eruption styles. Based on the phenomenology of the studied events as well as the grain size, 67 componentry, texture, morphology and chemical analysis of the tephra particles, this work brings new insights into 68 the different eruptive mechanisms that can lead to ash-generating events at basaltic volcanoes. We used grain size 69 and morphology analyses to constrain the fragmentation mechanisms controlling the studied events, and 70 componentry analyses to assess the role of juvenile magma and identify the key textural features depicting the origin of both juvenile and non-juvenile components. Finally, chemical analysis provided us constraints on magma 71 72 composition as well as pre- and syn-eruptive conditions.

73

74 2. Case studies and field sampling

75 PdF is the currently active volcano of the Reunion Island (Fig. 1a), situated in the Indian Ocean, 76 approximately 750 km to the East of Madagascar. This volcano is one of the most active hotspot shield volcanoes 77 in the world, with two eruptions per year on average (Peltier et al. 2018). The main and most recent (< 5000 years) 78 volcano-tectonic structure of PdF is the Enclos Fouqué caldera (Fig. 1b). This horseshoe-shaped depression is 250 79 m deep, 13 km long in the E-W axis and 6 to 8 km wide in the N-S axis (Michon and Saint-Ange 2008). Since the settling of permanent population on La Réunion Island (second part of the 17th century), the volcanic activity is 80 81 mainly concentrated within this structure (e.g. Villeneuve and Bachèlery 2006; Staudacher et al. 2016; Peltier et 82 al. 2018).

83 Sampling of all the deposits presented in this study was performed during several field campaigns. All
84 the samples studied here are located in Figure 1b and listed in Figure 1c, in which some of the deposit
85 characteristics are summarized.

Sampling of deposits from recent eruptions (part of routine sampling performed by the Observatoire Volcanologique du Piton de la Fournaise (OVPF) for each recent eruptive event, represented by green squares in Fig.1b) is either done during the eruptive activity and close to the source or just after the eruption, to be able to access strategic and very proximal deposits (Gurioli et al. 2018; Thivet et al. 2020a, 2020b). Other sampling was performed on older and key deposits representative of explosive events at PdF (orange squares in Fig. 1b). All eruptions/deposits studied here are classified by style and phenomenology (Figs. 2 and 3), which are inferred from observational data (recent eruptive events) and reviews of the literature (older events).

93 2.1. Historical and recent Hawaiian fountaining activity

94 Tephra produced during Hawaiian fountaining activity are the first type of samples described in this study.
95 We collected (i) deposits emplaced between 2014 and 2018 (fountain heights of 30 to 100 m) and (ii) the Black
96 Tephra Deposits (1450 to 1630 AD) that were emitted from Piton Chisny, a scoria cone situated outside the Enclos
97 Fouqué caldera (Fig. 1b), likely during intense Hawaiian fountaining activity (fountain heights of hundreds of
98 meters; Morandi et al. 2016).

99 (i) During the recent fissure-fed eruptions at PdF, Hawaiian fountaining phases are generally observed at 100 the beginning of the eruptive activity, when the lava and gas flux are relatively high (Coppola et al. 2017; Thivet 101 et al. 2020b). Figure 2a shows the sustained Hawaiian fountaining (height of around 50 m) which occurred during 102 the entire duration of the September 2016 eruption. Two months after the eruption, the whole sequence of this 103 Hawaiian fountaining was sampled a 100 m from the main active vent. We also added samples from five additional 104 eruptions that happened during the 2014-2018 period and were collected during the fountaining (with plastic sheets 105 on the ground for February, May and July 2015 eruptions) or a few months after the eruptions, when the deposits 106 were finally accessible, such as the June 2014 eruption (Gurioli et al. 2018). All these deposits were sampled 107 approximately 100 m from the eruptive vents.

(ii) The entire stratigraphic sequence (3 m thick) of the last Piton Chisny activity (1450 to 1630 AD)
called the Black Tephra Deposit (Morandi et al. 2016; Principe et al. 2016) was sampled (Fig. S1a). The two
samples shown in this study (Fig. 2b) represent the initial or opening phase (tephra layer named CH1, 5 to 10 cm

thick) and a relatively steady phase of long-lived lava fountaining (tephra layer named CH5, 20 cm thickhomogeneous bed of scoria lapilli between two bomb-rich layers).

113 2.2. Recent mild Strombolian and transient explosions

The second type of samples described in this study are tephra emitted during (i) mild Strombolian
eruptions (e.g. July and September 2018 eruptions) and (ii) more intense transient explosions (September 2016
eruption; Thivet et al. 2020a).

(i) During the recent fissure-fed eruptions at PdF, mild Strombolian activity (bubble bursting at the
magma free surface) is generally observed a few hours or days after the beginning of the eruptive activity, when
the lava and gas fluxes are progressively decreasing (Thivet et al. 2020b). This mild Strombolian activity usually
occurs as discrete explosions ejecting pyroclasts to heights less than 10 m (Gurioli et al. 2018) and ends with
decreasingly energetic spattering. The samples from the July (Fig. 2c) and September 2018 eruptions, which lasted
around 1 and 47 days respectively, were collected 50 m from the vents, one day after the end of the Strombolian
phases.

124 (ii) The final day of the one week long eruption of September 2016, mostly dominated by sustained lava 125 fountaining, was characterized by a shift in activity (Thivet et al 2020a): one of the active vents turned from mild 126 ejections and slight degassing to relatively more intense, transient bomb- and lapilli-dominated explosions (one 127 explosion every 10 to 20 seconds producing both incandescent ejections up to 30 m high, yellow circle labeled 1 128 in Figure 2d) associated with synchronous sporadic emission of dark ash-dominated plumes (up to 300 m high, 129 the ash particles being transported to proximal areas downwind, yellow circle labeled 2 in Figure 2d). Two months 130 after the eruption, the whole sequence of deposits from the intense explosions and ash plumes was collected from 131 a 1 m thick log, approximately 150 m from the explosive vent.

132 2.3. The April 2007 explosions caused by lava flow entry in the sea

During the caldera-forming April 2007 eruption (Piton Tremblet, source of emission only 600 m above sea level and only 3 km from the coastline; Fig. 1b), relatively high lava flux (maximum of 200 m³ s⁻¹, Staudacher et al. 2009) was associated with intense Hawaiian fountaining activity (lava fountain heights up to 200 m). This intense activity (from April 2 to May 1) supplied a large lava flow that rapidly reached the ocean (Michon et al. 2007, 2011), forming a new emerged lava platform of around 5×10^5 m² at the end of the eruption. The interaction between seawater and the hot lava generated multiple explosions, characterized by the emission of steam clouds rich in acidic aerosols and glass shards (laze) which are the third type of samples described in this study (Fig. 3a).
The related tephra deposit (5 mm thick layer emplaced on a clean surface, near the Tremblet village) was collected
on the day of emission (May 5), 1 kilometer from the ocean entry.

142 2.4. The April 2007 caldera collapse

143 Tephra can also be produced during caldera (or pit-crater) collapse events that originate from paroxysmal 144 eruptions. Tephra deposits related to the April 2007 caldera collapse event are studied here. The intense April 2007 145 eruption drained the shallow magmatic system, situated ~2 km below the summit cone (Di Muro et al. 2014). On 146 April 5 at 8:48pm UTC, a major collapse occurred which was followed by numerous but weaker collapses until April 15 (Fontaine et al. 2014), producing a 340 m deep depression of a total volume of 96×10^6 m³ (Urai et al. 147 148 2007) at the summit. After the main collapse associated with ash emission (Fig. 3b), several lava flows occurred 149 on the newly formed inner caldera walls (Staudacher et al. 2009). The emitted ash mostly dispersed within the 150 Enclos Fouqué caldera (Staudacher et al. 2009; Michon et al. 2011, 2013). In this study, we focus on a sample 151 collected 1.5 km from the source (Fig. 3b) on the western part of the Enclos Fouqué caldera on a clean solar panel 152 surface of an OVPF station (named "La Dalle") in order to avoid any contamination. At the time of sampling the 153 ash thickness was approximately 4 mm.

154 2.5. The March 1860 violent Strombolian eruption

155 Two samples representative of the first phase of the March 1860 summit violent Strombolian eruption were collected within the summit area of PdF, and within the stratigraphic sequence (Fig. S1b) described by 156 157 Michon et al. (2013). The drawing shown in Figure 3c was realized by Velain (1878) a few years after the eruption 158 and represents the Brûlant crater which was situated on the Eastern part of the summit area where the Dolomieu 159 caldera is situated today. After overflow then draining of an active lava lake located within the Brûlant crater 160 (Lénat et al. 2016), several eruptive fissures opened on the flank of the volcano in February and March 1860. 161 Summit explosions producing ash-rich plumes and block ejections were observed on March 19, 1860. The Brûlant 162 crater was partially eroded and widened by about 300 m. The products of this paroxysmal event were dispersed over all the PdF edifice (Villeneuve and Bachèlery 2006), but today, the deposits from this eruption are only found 163 164 in the summit area of the central cone. Here, we focus on two samples (Fig. 3c) representative of the relatively fine-grained matrix (lapilli and coarse ash) of the first half of the coarse-grained (bombs, blocks and lapilli) deposit 165 166 sequence (Fig. S1b), collected approximately 500 m from the Brûlant crater (REU131112 at the base and PF_2 at 167 the top).

168 2.6. Prehistorical ash-rich deposits related to the formation of the Enclos Fouqué caldera

169 According to Michon et al. (2016) and Ort et al. (2016), the Enclos Fouqué caldera may have formed 170 during successive mass-sliding events towards the East. These authors have related the caldera forming events 171 with the Bellecombe Tephra (4900 to 2250 BP), a thick and widespread deposit that can be found all over the PdF 172 edifice. Ort et al. (2016) divided the stratigraphic sequence of the Bellecombe Tephra into two main units. The 173 Lower Bellecombe Tephra (around 60 cm thick in a proximal outcrop named "Petite Carrière") may be related to 174 the opening of steeply dipping fissures tapping a hydrothermal and/or magmatic system located under the newly 175 formed Enclos Fouqué caldera. The upper Bellecombe Tephra (around 210 cm thick) is related to a fissure opening 176 linked to a relative more mature hydrothermal and/or magmatic reservoir, initially emplaced westwards within the 177 Plaine des Sables area. Two samples were collected within the lower unit and two other ones within the upper unit 178 (Figs. 3d and S2).

179

180 3. Laboratory methods

181 **3.1.** Grain size

182 Grain size analyses were performed on all the studied deposits. Beforehand, the samples were dried in the 183 oven at 90 °C during 24 to 48 hours. Manual sieving (grain size bins in wt%) at a $\frac{1}{2}\Phi$ scale between -6 Φ (64 mm, 184 $\Phi = -\log_2$ (d in mm)) and 5 Φ (32 µm) was carried out following the procedure described in Gurioli et al. (2018). 185 When observed, particle clusters were dismantled either by hand or using ultrasonic cleaning baths. Samples rich 186 in fine ash were analyzed by laser diffraction using a Malvern Mastersizer 3000 (grain size bins in vol%) in an 187 aqueous solution, in order to quantify the Particle Size Distribution (PSD) of the sample fraction below 63 µm 188 through the application of the Mie theory (Riley et al. 2003), which allow to measure the equivalent particle 189 diameters, regardless of the real particle shapes. Raw grain size data are available in the supplementary material 190 (Table S1). In order to combine the two grain size methods (Eychenne et al. 2012), (i) we assumed that grain 191 density variations below 63 µm are negligible and that consequently vol% and wt% are equivalent (no porosity 192 variations were observed, and the components with contrasting densities are evenly distributed though the ash 193 fraction), and (ii) we normalized the laser data to the mass proportion of sample finer than 63 µm.

194 **3.2.** Componentry, texture and chemical analysis

195 For each sample, componentry analyses were performed on one specific grain size fraction, depending 196 on the sample PSDs (cf. Figs 2 and 3), in order to distinguish juvenile from non-juvenile particles (White and 197 Houghton 2006) based on their surface texture and morphology (angularity and roughness), porosity (high vs. low 198 vesicle content), crystal assemblage (presence of magmatic glass and/or microlites and/or phenocrysts) and degree 199 of alteration (fresh vs. altered and/or eroded). Textural and componentry analyses were performed (i) on the 500-200 710 grain size fraction for coarse deposits, and (ii) on finer fractions close to PSD modes for fine deposits. At least 201 200 particles were counted in each fraction, using a binocular microscope (for lapilli) and Scanning Electron 202 Microscopy (SEM) (for ash) on epoxy-impregnated polished sections. Internal textures of the samples were 203 investigated by Backscattered Electron (BSE) imagery using both the JEOL JSM-5910 LV SEM and the Cameca 204 SxFiveTactis Electron Probe Micro Analysis (EPMA) at LMV, with an acceleration voltage of 15 kV.

When applicable, vesicle and crystal contents were estimated based on the analysis of 20 particles on average. For the September 2016 eruption, detailed textural analysis was previously performed by Thivet et al. (2020a). Juvenile particles are characterized by different groundmass textures: in the results section, they will be described as sideromelane (glassy and transparent, with possible presence of microlites) or tachylite (fully microcrystalline and opaque) particles.

Some chemical analyses were also performed on a few samples (Table S2) by in-situ glass analyses with Cameca SxFiveTactis EPMA (acceleration voltage of 15 kV and a current intensity of 8 nA) following the procedure described in Gurioli et al. (2018). For some key ash samples, mineral phases were identified by X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis with an Empyrean diffractometer, operated at 43 kV and 38 mA, with the use of Ka radiation from a Cu anode. Inorganic Crystal Structure (ICSD) and Crystallography Open (COD) databases were used to identify the mineral phases. The ash samples were analyzed from 2 to 50 degrees 2θ, with a step width of 0.02 degrees 2θ and two second counting time for each step.

217 **3.3.** Ash morphology

2D ash morphology was quantified using the automated Malvern Morpho-Grainsizer Morphologi G3 219 following the method developed by Leibrandt and Le Pennec (2015) and adapted by Thivet et al. (2020a). Before 220 the analysis, specific grain size fractions were selected within $\frac{1}{4} \Phi$ bins from 0.75 Φ (600 µm) to 4 Φ (32 µm), 221 depending on the deposit grain size. The narrow $\frac{1}{4} \Phi$ range favors the grain size homogeneity for the 222 morphological analysis. When possible, we performed the morphology measurements on similar grain size 223 fractions from one deposit to another to allow data comparison without grain size bias. Several grain size fractions 224 were also analyzed within the same sample to check the effects of the grain size on the morphology. Apparent 225 Projected Shape of Ash (APASH) was automatically measured by the instrument, via several morphology and 226 roughness parameters, on a high number of ash particles dispersed on a glass slide. Front lightning with various 227 magnifications (from $2.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ x}$) was used depending on the particle sizes. In this study we focused on two 228 roughness parameters, namely the solidity (SLD) and the convexity (CVX), which represent morphological 229 (particle scale) and textural (smaller scale) roughness of the particles, respectively. The study of Liu et al. (2015) 230 gives a global overview on how to interpret the different shape parameters, especially SLD and CVX, and how to 231 link these with magmatic textures. For instance, a perfect round or square particle has a SLD and CVX value of 1. 232 On the other hand, SLD and CVX decrease as soon as shape irregularities appear. We also focused on one 233 morphological parameter, the aspect ratio (AR), which represents the elongation of the particles. These three 234 parameters are defined as follow (Leibrandt and Le Pennec 2015): $SLD = A/A_{CH}$, $CVX = P_{CH}/P$ and $AR = W_b/L_b$ 235 where A is the particle area (μ m²), A_{CH} is the area (μ m²) of the convex-hull (smallest convex polygon that contains 236 all the pixels of the particle), P is the particle perimeter (μ m), P_{CH} the convex-hull perimeter (μ m), W_b the minor 237 axis and L_b the major axis of the particle. In specific cases and in order to distinguish between angular and spherical 238 shapes, we also studied the sphericity (SPH, also known as HS circularity or Shape Factor) which relates the 239 perimeter to the area of the particles (Riley et al. 2003; Leibrandt and Le Pennec 2015): SPH = $(4\pi A)/(P^2)$. SLD, 240 CVX, AR and SPH are dimensionless parameters varying between 0 and 1. The raw data for each parameter are 241 shown in Table S3. These data were previously filtered to remove artificial particle clusters form the database 242 (several particles that touch each other): a manual but rigorous verification was systematically performed on each 243 automatically identified particle.

244

245 4. Results on the deposits characterization

246 4.1. Tephra deposits from Hawaiian fountaining activity

247 4.1.1. Recent investigated eruptions (2014 to 2018)

The deposits are mostly composed of lapilli with a moderate ash content between 10 and 58 wt%, but none of them contain detectable fine ash. All these Hawaiian deposits are only composed of juvenile particles, characterized by vesicle-rich and microlite-poor sideromelane particles (golden pumice and fluidal scoria pyroclasts). Thivet et al. (2020a) presents detailed textural analysis within the 500-710 µm size fraction on the 252 September 2016 Hawaiian fountain deposits, showing that these ash particles are composed of 42 vol% of vesicles 253 and only 1 vol% of microlites. Microlites are mainly plagioclase and scarce clinopyroxene. Micro-phenocrysts of 254 olivine (Fig. 2a), plagioclase or clinopyroxene can also occur depending on the eruptions. Vesicles can be either 255 round and isolated within the glassy matrix or highly elongated. The PSDs of these samples (Figs. 4a) are unimodal 256 with modes between 2 and 8 mm depending on the eruptions. The morphology of these particles, measured within 257 the 250-300 grain size fraction (Fig. 5a), are relatively heterogeneous (CVX between 0.61 and 1.00, SLD between 258 0.39 and 1.00, and AR values between 0.10 and 1.00), reflecting the systematic presence of round droplets (CVX, 259 SLD and AR values near 1), fluidal and poly-lobed fragments, as well as elongated particles with sometimes Pele's 260 hairs (lower CVX, SLD and AR values). Note that the July 2015 sample was measured within a larger grain size 261 fraction (500 to 600 µm) but no significant differences are observed in terms of shape except that elongated 262 particles are slightly more abundant in this fraction (lowest AR median (0.65) measured in this study). Depending 263 on the samples, SPH medians span a range from 0.49 to 0.65 (Table S3).

264 4.1.2. The Black Tephra deposits of Piton Chisny (1450 to 1630 AD)

265 The initial phase of the sampled sequence (labelled CH1 in Fig. 2b), is composed of juvenile lapilli (39 266 %) and juvenile ash (56 wt% of coarse ash and 5 wt% of fine ash). This ash is either composed of sideromelane 267 or tachylite particles (Fig. 2b) showing heterogeneous magmatic textures that range from vesicle-rich and crystal-268 poor to vesicle-poor and crystal-rich matrixes. The PSD of this sample is multimodal (Fig. 4b) with two main 269 modes between 11.3 and 16 mm (only composed of sideromelane lapilli, golden pumice and fluidal scoria) as well 270 as between 180 and 250 µm (mostly composed of tachylite ash with scarce sideromelane ash). Interestingly, the 271 content of tachylite particles within the deposit increases towards the fine grain sizes, from 6 % (2-2.8 mm), to 10 272 % (1.4-2 mm), to 11 % (1-1.4 mm) to 19 % (500-710 µm) to finally 83 % (180-250 µm). Scarce individual olivine 273 phenocrysts were also observed (Fig. 2b). Looking at the BSE images it is clear that the tachylite particles show 274 relatively different shapes with rougher surfaces than sideromelane ones. However, no clear differences are 275 observed in term of morphology (Fig. 5b) compared to the 2014-2018 Hawaiian ash particles because the tachylite 276 particles within the CH1 sample are dispersed with the sideromelane particles which have more heterogeneous 277 shapes.

This CH1 layer is overlain by a sequence of about 3 m thick coarser layers (separated by several bombrich layers) which have very similar PSD (Fig. S1a). The labelled sample CH5 (Fig. 2b) is globally representative of these subsequent deposits which are only composed of juvenile sideromelane particles (golden pumice and fluidal scoria pyroclasts), with only 6 wt% content of ash and with no detectable fine ash. Thus, this deposit is relatively different from the opening phase. In spite of its significant thickness and large dispersion (Morandi et al., 2016), the Chisny lapilli deposit is very similar to the recent and weak Hawaiian fountaining deposits described earlier in this section, with a unimodal PSD, the grain size mode being between 5.6 and 8 mm (Fig. 4b). The ash morphologies are also quite similar to the recent ash produced during weak Hawaiian fountaining (Fig. 5b).

4.2. Tephra deposits from recent mild Strombolian and transient explosions

287 4.2.1. The July and September 2018 mild Strombolian activities

288 The deposits collected from mild Strombolian activities during July 2018 and September 2018 (Fig. 2c) 289 eruptions are mostly composed of lapilli with a very low ash content (5 to 6 wt%) and with no detectable fine ash. 290 These deposits are only composed of juvenile sideromelane particles. Textural observations performed on the 500-291 710 µm grain size fraction highlights an increase in the microlite content (20 to 30 vol%) and a decrease in the 292 vesicle content (10 to 20 vol%) compared to the Hawaiian particles. Most of the vesicles are round, while some 293 vesicles are larger and characterized by irregular shapes. The microlite populations are composed by plagioclase, 294 clinopyroxene and very scarce olivine, in order of abundance. The PSD of these two 2018 samples are unimodal, 295 relatively similar to the Hawaiian samples (apart for the ash content), with grain size modes between 5.6 and 8 296 mm (Fig. 3c). Ash morphology measurements were performed on the 250-300 µm grain size fraction and the 297 particle CVXs, SLDs and ARs are respectively higher than 0.68, 0.58 and 0.19 (Fig. 5c), reflecting fluidal shapes 298 associated with spiny, rough particles.

299 4.2.2. The specific case of the September 2016 transient explosions

300 Deposits from the September 2016 transient explosions contain two different type of juvenile particle 301 components, respectively sideromelane (REU161211 10, labelled 1 in Fig. 2b) and tachylite ones (REU161211 6, 302 labelled 2 in Fig. 2b), as already described in Thivet et al. (2020a). The deposit formed by the sideromelane 303 component is a typical coarse-grained Strombolian deposit composed of only 8 wt% of ash, while the deposit 304 related to the tachylite component is composed of 97 wt% of coarse ash. None of these deposits contain detectable 305 fine ash. The sideromelane ash textures have similar textures than the ones described in the Mild Strombolian 306 section (labeled 1 in Fig. 2d). Thivet et al. (2020a) already performed precise textural analysis on these samples, 307 showing a low content of vesicles (13 vol%) and microlites (17 vol%) of plagioclase, clinopyroxene and olivine 308 (within the 500-710 µm grain size fraction). Vesicles are sometimes deformed. The tachylite ash particles (labeled 309 2 in Fig. 2d) are characterized by a relatively low content of vesicles (10 vol%), and a fully crystallized matrix 310 (100 vol%) composed of normally zoned microlites of plagioclase and clinopyroxene associated with olivine 311 microlites and Fe-Ti rich micro-oxides (still within the 500-710 µm grain size fraction). Sideromelane and tachylite 312 textures are sometimes mingled together (mingled clasts) even at microscopic scale. XRD analyses discard the 313 presence of any hydrothermal-induced mineral phases on both sideromelane and tachylite deposits. PSD of the 314 sideromelane deposit shows a similar pattern as the mild Strombolian samples previously described, although with 315 a coarser grain size mode between 22.6 and 32 mm. In contrast, the PSD of the fine-grained tachylite deposit is 316 unimodal with a mode between 500 and 710 µm (Fig. 4c). Ash morphology, performed on the 250-300 µm grain 317 size fraction (Fig. 5c), show that the sideromelane ash has very similar morphology signatures as the mild 318 Strombolian samples. However, the tachylite ash particles do not have smooth surfaces anymore (CVX and SLD 319 values < 0.95) and are rougher both in terms of SLD (particle scale) and CVX (micron scale), than the sideromelane 320 ash particles, with no evidence of significant elongation features (AR values > 0.40 and a slightly higher SPH 321 median of 0.69 compared to the Hawaiian and Strombolian particles).

4.3. Tephra deposits from the explosions caused by the April 2007 lava flow entry in the sea

323 The hydromagmatic deposit from the April 2007 lava flow entry is only composed of juvenile coarse ash 324 among with very scarce fine ash (1 wt%). Particles are dense and glassy, and looking at the 500-710 µm grain size 325 fraction they are characterized by relatively low vesicle content (less than 20 vol%), very low microlite content 326 (less than 10 vol%) and variable but relatively high olivine phenocryst content (Fig. 3a), in agreement with the 327 fragmentation of the olivine-rich lava from whom they are originated (Staudacher et al. 2009; Di Muro et al. 2014). 328 These olivine phenocrysts (both free crystals and composite particles of liquid and phenocrysts) are highly 329 fractured. Very scarce particles have a dendritic texture (Fig. 3a). The PSD of this deposit is relatively fine-grained 330 and unimodal, mode being between 500 and 710 µm (Fig. 4d). Morphology of these particles (performed on many 331 grain size fractions, Fig. 5d) is highly distinctive with respect to Hawaiian and Strombolian deposits mostly 332 because these particles are relatively elongated with extreme AR values down to 0.03, reflecting the presence of 333 abundant glassy Limu o Pele shards (following the nomenclature described in Maicher and White 2001). These 334 kind of shards show elongation, deformation and folded features, with fluidal shapes and fractured surfaces. No 335 significant morphology differences are observed depending on the different grains size fractions measured.

336 4.4. Tephra deposits from the April 2007 caldera collapse

337 The studied sample related to the ash emission during the caldera collapse of April 2007 is only composed 338 of ash particles with a large amount of fine ash (87 wt%), the largest in our sample set. This ash deposit contains 339 particle clusters forming irregular-shaped aggregates, composed of both coarse and fine grains and showing 340 random particle grain size arrangement (Fig. 3b). Most of the particles are considered as non-juvenile (> 99 wt%). 341 These non-juvenile particles are sometimes altered and systematically characterized by the absence of vesicles, by 342 fully crystallized gabbroic textures (assemblage of plagioclase, pyroxene, olivine and oxides), with also the 343 presence of individual and fractured crystal-free particles, which are not coated with magmatic glass. However, 344 very scarce particles (< 1 wt%) are considered as juvenile. They are either represented by individual glass 345 fragments with a moderate content in MgO (4.9 ± 0.1 wt%) and in K₂O (1.3 ± 0.1 wt%), or by tachylite particles 346 with no clear evidence of significant alteration. We also note that a small amount of Pele's hairs is dispersed in 347 this deposit. These Pele's hairs have a bimodal composition (Table S2) with magnesian (MgO: 8.1 ± 0.3 wt%) and 348 evolved, low MgO (2.9 ± 0.8 wt%) melts.

349 XRD analysis performed on the April 2007 caldera collapse deposit confirmed the presence of 350 plagioclase, clinopyroxene and olivine crystals (observed in the gabbro fragments) and also suggest the presence 351 of both montmorillonite (clay) and hematite phases. The PSD of this sample is unimodal with a mode between 15 352 and 8 µm (Fig. 4e). Ash morphology performed on this sample and on three different grain sizes (Fig. 5e) show 353 very different results from the other samples: most of the CVX and SLD values range between 0.90 and 1.00 reflecting the presence of both fine grained, blocky and large, round particles without significant rough surface 354 355 features (Fig. 3b). Looking at the relatively high AR values (median between 0.70 and 0.80) they suggest that these 356 particles are mostly blocky without elongation features. Depending on the grain size, slight differences on the 357 averaged SPH are observed (Table S3): the coarsest analyzed grain size bins (150-180 mm and 63-75 mm) show 358 the highest SPH values measured in this study (0.83 and 0.84 respectively), while the finest analyzed grain size 359 (32-43 mm) show slightly lower values (0.79). These SPH values are in accordance with the SEM observations: 360 in this sample, the ash particles tend to be more angular towards the finer grain sizes.

361 4.5. Tephra deposits from the March 1860 violent Strombolian eruption

The sample collected at the base of the deposit (REU131112, Fig. S1b) is composed of lapilli (44 wt%) and ash (55 wt% of coarse ash and 1 wt% of fine ash). Within the 500-710 μm grain size fraction, juvenile particles represent only 2 % which are characterized by non-altered, more or less vesiculated glassy matrix. The nonjuvenile particles (98 %) are dense, characterized by fully crystallized matrix (Fig. 3c). The size of the crystals of 366 these particles vary from a few tens of microns (microlite-rich and altered or oxidized particles, thus considered 367 as recycled non-juvenile tachylite particles) to several hundreds of microns (fully crystallized micro-gabbro 368 texture, thus considered as non-juvenile intrusive fragmented material). Micro-gabbro textures are characterized 369 by larger crystal in terms of length and width (plagioclase, clinopyroxene and olivine) than in the juvenile or 370 recycled particles (microlites and micro-phenocrysts sometimes associated with unaltered glass). Scarce olivine 371 individual crystals are counted within the non-juvenile particles, because they are not wetted with fresh glass. The 372 PSD of this sample is unimodal with a grain size mode between 1.4 and 2 mm (Fig. 4f), finer than that of Hawaiian 373 and Strombolian deposits, but coarser than that of hydromagmatic ash from the April 2007 lava flow entry.

 PF_2 sample (Fig. S1b) is only composed of ash with the presence of a little amount of fine ash (4 wt%). Within the 355-500 µm grain size fraction, most of the particles are non-juvenile (89 %). All the particles of this layer show the same textures as in the REU131112 sample. XRD analysis performed on the PF_2 samples suggests the presence of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, olivine (already observed with the SEM) and hematite phases. The PSD of this sample is unimodal with a grain size mode finer than the previous sample, between 355 and 500 µm (Fig. 4f).

Despite a small difference on the measured grain size fractions, the particle morphology of the two samples representative of this eruption are very similar to each other (Fig. 5f): CVX and SLD medians for both samples are around 0.95 and AR values are relatively high with medians at 0.78, mostly reflecting gabbroic or altered particles with rough and blocky shapes. The median values of SPH (Table S3) measured on both samples are relatively high (0.73 and 0.75) reflecting the presence of blocky non-juvenile particles without any significant irregularity features, in accordance with the previous observations.

386 4.6. The Bellecombe Tephra deposits (4900 to 2250 BP)

387 Samples collected within the first 20 cm fall deposits of the Lower Bellecombe Tephra (BE_BASE_1 and 388 BE BASE 2, Fig. S2) have similar and very high ash content (between 85 and 91 wt%), with however slightly 389 different fine ash content (32 and 11 wt% respectively). Based on the componentry analysis performed on the 250-390 355 µm grain size fraction of the BE_BASE_1 sample (Fig. 3d), we suggest that this ash fraction is only composed 391 of non-juvenile particles either characterized by altered glassy clasts (40%), micro-gabbro (40%), and individual 392 olivine crystal fragments (20%). We consider that the alteration observed on these particles is representative of the 393 fragmentation conditions but the alteration may also have occurred after the tephra deposition regarding the 394 relatively old age of the eruption, and this is the limit of the componentry analysis. Grain size mode of these two samples (Fig. 4g) are skewed toward relatively fine grain size fractions (between 31 and 63 µm for the
BE_BASE_1 sample and between 180 and 250 µm for the BE_BASE_2 sample).

397 Samples collected within the primary (non-reworked) layers of the Upper Bellecombe Tephra 398 (BE_TOP_1 and BE_TOP_2, Fig. S2) have lower ash content than the Lower Bellecombe Tephra samples 399 (between 47 and 59 wt%) with also lower fine ash content (between 2 and 3 wt%). Similarly to the Lower 400 Bellecombe Tephra samples, componentry performed on the 250-355 µm grain size fraction of the BE_TOP_1 401 samples suggest that this ash fraction is only composed of non-juvenile particles, consisting in the same types of 402 fragments of the BE_BASE_1 sample (Fig. 3d). Irregular-shaped particle clusters (following the Brown et al. 2012 403 nomenclature) are much more abundant than in the layers of the Lower Bellecombe Tephra and are characterized 404 by a random grain size organization. Grain size mode of these two samples are skewed toward coarser grain size 405 fraction (Fig. 4g) than the Lower Bellecombe Tephra samples (two modes between 8 and 11.3 cm as well as 406 between 1.4 and 2.8 cm for the BE_TOP_1 sample and one mode between 1.4 and 2 cm for the BE_TOP_2 407 sample). In addition to the plagioclase, clinopyroxene and olivine phases, XRD analysis performed on both Lower 408 and Upper Bellecombe Tephra suggest the presence of montmorillonite and quartz.

Ash morphology measurements performed on the four Bellecombe samples show quite similar patterns (Fig. 5g) reflecting the presence of three different types of non-juvenile particles, namely the glassy altered ones which have fluidal to spiny shapes (especially for the Lower Tephra samples), as well as the individual crystalfree and micro-gabbro blocky fragments. Similarly to the March 1860 analyzed deposits, the average values of SPH (Table S3) measured on the four Bellecombe samples are relatively high (between 0.71 and 0.77) reflecting the presence of blocky, non-juvenile particles without any significant irregularity features.

415

416 5. Discussion on the fragmentation mechanism variability

In this study, we chose to study a wide range of tephra deposits (in terms of texture, morphology, grain size, and chemistry) in order to depict the variability of ash-forming events occurring at a basaltic shield volcano. As a consequence, we could only analyze a limited number of samples for each selected deposit. In order to work on thick deposits and visualize the entire stratigraphy representing the whole of the eruptive sequences, we systematically collected samples from proximal locations (50 to 1500 m from source). We are confident that this sampling strategy is appropriate for pursuing the objectives of this study, i.e. deciphering the processes of ash formation and describing the characteristics of the resulting particles. One sample is representative enough of the weakest, very short-lived explosions, which are limited in time (very brief) and space (poorly dispersed). The tephra deposits from older eruptions (March 1860, Piton Chisny, and Bellecombe) are relatively heterogeneous in terms of lithology and grain size (Figs. S1 and S2), but we identified the best outcrops representing the whole sequence of events, and carefully selected specific layers representative of the main eruptive phases of each eruption, based on our observations and the literature when available.

429 All the samples described in this study were affected by transport-dependent processes, which normally 430 limit the comparison between samples collected at different distances from vent, especially when dealing with 431 PSD. However, all the samples were collected at similar distances close to their sources (most of them less than 432 500 meters from source, Fig. 1c), thus effects of transport processes are negligible. Only the two 2007 samples 433 were collected 1.5 km from source, because we favored clean sampling surfaces to avoid mixing between the 434 multiple ash-sources observed during the 2007 eruption. More proximal samples were available (300 meters from 435 source) and show similar PSDs to the more distal samples selected here, which demonstrates that the variations in 436 PSDs can be confidently interpreted in terms of differences in fragmentation efficiency.

437 5.1. Variability and origin of the eruptive dynamics

438 5.1.1. Hawaiian fountaining: breakup of vesicle-rich and crystal-poor juvenile magmas

439 The investigated Hawaiian fountaining events at PdF produced sustained lava fountains with heights 440 ranging from 30 to 100 m (Fig. 2a). The associated deposits are characterized by lapilli-dominated (Fig. 4a), 441 vesicle-rich, and crystal-poor juvenile pyroclasts (Fig. 2a). Despite their homogenous textures, the emitted ash 442 particles show a large range in morphology (Fig. 5a and Table S3). The presence of round droplets and elongated 443 particles with smooth surfaces, highlight that magma fragmentation occurred at low viscosity and that the final 444 pyroclast shape was acquired in the air post-fragmentation just before quenching. Round liquid droplets formed 445 due to surface tension while the high projection velocity shaped the elongated filaments (Shimozuru 1994). 446 Particles with poly-lobed contours show that magma fragmentation was also controlled by the numerous thin 447 bubble walls that rapidly quenched and broke up. The low magma viscosity interpretation is in agreement with a 448 previous estimation (10^2 Pa s) based on a three-phase viscosity model (vesicle and crystal content as well as melt 449 composition) performed on the magmas from the Hawaiian-style activity of the September 2016 eruption at PdF 450 (Thivet et al. 2020a). Moreover, most of the studied deposits contain Pele's hairs of different size with various 451 content in deformed vesicles, representative of low viscosity magmas exhibiting different quenching rates and 452 residence time in the hot lava fountain (Porritt et al. 2012; Mangan et al. 2014; Cannata et al. 2019). The relatively 453 high vesicle number density (N_V) and low microlite number density (N_C) measured in the ash, especially during 454 the September 2016 event (Thivet et al. 2020a), reflect hot magmatic liquids exhibiting high decompression rates 455 (Toramaru 2006) and low syn-eruptive outgassing and crystallization (Toramaru et al. 2008). This is consistent 456 with closed system, low-viscosity magma degassing during Hawaiian fountaining that has been related to intense 457 bubbly flow (Cashman and Scheu 2015) and even annular flow dynamics within the volcanic conduit (e.g. Jaupart 458 and Vergniolle 1988, 1989; Houghton and Gonnerman 2008). Similar textures are found in lava fountain deposits 459 from other volcanoes as Etna (e.g. Polacci et al. 2006; Andronico et al. 2008; Andronico and Corsaro 2011) and 460 Kilauea (e.g. Stovall et al. 2011, 2012; Parcheta et al. 2013; Cannata et al. 2019) but the heights and the intensity 461 of the lava fountains are generally higher in these latter volcanoes compared to PdF. Moreover, Etna eruptions 462 stand out from the typical Hawaiian activity for the recurrent formation of ash-rich eruptive columns up to several 463 kilometers high (e.g. Andronico et al. 2015; Corsaro et al. 2017; Potter et al. 2019).

The textural variability of juvenile tephra from a same eruption is well-known in a basaltic context (e.g. 464 465 Pioli et al. 2014; Gurioli et al. 2014; Polacci et al. 2019). This is the case of the deposits from the opening phase 466 of Piton Chisny historical activity (CH1 sample) which is much richer in ash particles. Interestingly, the smaller 467 grains of these deposits are mostly composed of crystal-rich and vesicle-poor sideromelane as well as tachylite 468 particles, while the coarser grains mostly show crystal-poor and vesicle-rich sideromelane textures (Fig. 2b). The 469 texture variation from sideromelane to tachylite can be interpreted as syn-eruptive degassing and crystallization 470 within the eruptive conduit, as demonstrated at other basaltic systems (e.g. Taddeucci et al. 2002; Sable et al. 2006; 471 D'Oriano et al. 2014; Polacci et al. 2019) and in experiments (e.g. Simakin et al. 1999; Applegarth et al. 2013; 472 Arzilli et al. 2015). This shows that the portion of viscous magma exhibits the highest degree of fragmentation. 473 We thus suggest that syn-eruptive degassing-driven crystallization of the Piton Chisny opening phase drastically 474 increased the magma viscosity and enhanced magma fragmentation (Arzilli et al. 2019), which was probably more 475 brittle than the Hawaiian counterpart. The presence of both vesicle-rich (high N_V reflecting high decompression 476 rates) and crystal-rich particles (high N_C reflecting an increase in magma viscosity in the conduit) in the CH1 477 sample, provides additional evidence of enhanced magma fragmentation (Cimarelli et al. 2010; Cashman and 478 Scheu 2015). Syn-eruptive crystallization may be facilitated by a long magma residence time during initiation and 479 propagation of the eruptive conduit from a deep reservoir (Morandi et al. 2016) to the surface. After the opening 480 phase and the formation of the eruptive conduit, the magma residence time in the conduit decreased resulting in 481 typical lava fountain activity (CH5 sample).

482 5.1.2. Strombolian explosions: towards brittle fragmentation of relatively degassed juvenile magmas

483 At PdF, mild Strombolian explosions occur towards the end of dyke eruptions and temporally follow the 484 fountaining activity, when the lava fluxes are decreasing (Thivet et al. 2020b). Mild Strombolian activity generally 485 focuses in a single vent/cone producing weak projections, not exceeding heights of a few tens of meters (Fig. 2c). 486 Bubble explosions at the magma free surface, within generally well-constructed scoria cones, are relatively weak 487 but temporally close (only a few seconds between each burst, similar to the mild-Strombolian activity described 488 by Spina et al. 2017 at Etna volcano) compared to the typical regime at Stromboli (e.g. Chouet 2003; Ripepe et al. 489 2001; Harris and Ripepe 2007). The associated deposits are characterized by bomb and lapilli-dominated (Fig. 4c) 490 juvenile pyroclasts with crystal-rich sideromelane textures. A decrease in porosity and an increase in microcrystallinity (Fig. 2c) are thus observed compared to the magma emitted during the lava fountain activity (golden 491 492 and fluidal material). The decrease of N_V and the increase of N_C as well as some evidence of vesicle coalescence 493 (occurrence of a second, irregularly-shaped vesicle population of larger size) within the sideromelane ash particles 494 suggest that the mild Strombolian dynamics, typically active during slug flow (e.g. Jaupart and Vergniolle 1988, 495 1989; Houghton and Gonnerman 2008; Chouet et al. 2003; Oppenheimer et al. 2020), is related to lower 496 decompression rates associated with higher syn-eruptive degassing and crystallization (Thivet et al. 2020b). It also 497 marks the transition from closed to open system degassing. Sideromelane particle shapes from bubble explosions 498 (Fig. 5c) differ from the clast shapes produced by the Hawaiian fountaining activity. First, the absence of 499 significant post-fragmentation features as well as the absence of Pele's hairs and tears, suggest that the relatively 500 low temperature and high viscosity do not allow patricles to deform during and after fragmentation. Moreover, the 501 rough and spiny shapes of the Strombolian particles may reflect primary brittle fragmentation behavior, mostly 502 due to lower magmatic temperatures and higher crystal contents (both cooling and degassing of the magma in the 503 conduit enhanced by a longer residence time compared to the Hawaiian fountaining dynamics), resulting in an 504 increase in viscosity (10³ Pa s, calculated value for the sideromelane September 2016 magma, Thivet et al. 2020a).

We conclude that the magmas emitted during these mild Strombolian explosions have slightly higher viscosities than their Hawaiian counterparts. However, vesicles are well coupled with the melt in the Hawaiian regime, but open degassing system and volatile percolation occur in the Strombolian regime, which drastically decrease the fragmentation efficiency. This results in the lowest ash content of the investigated dynamics at PdF.

509 Similarly to the textural variations observed between the CH1 and CH5 samples, we observed an 510 evolution from sideromelane to tachylite particles emitted during the specific case of the September 2016 transient 511 explosions. The texture and associated features of the tachylite ash emitted during these explosions, already 512 quantified in a previous study, highlight that these juvenile particles are totally crystallized and degassed (0 wt% of dissolved H₂O, 10 vol% of vesicles, Thivet et al. 2020a). In-situ chemical and textural analysis, as well as syn-513 514 eruptive observations, suggest that the emitted ash originated from sub-surface degassing and crystallization of the 515 initial magma (Thivet et al. 2020a). The degassed/cooled magma formed a rheological and impermeable layer, 516 which played the role of a plug, within one of the two active vents. The ascent of still partially undegassed magma 517 (sideromelane) fragmented the plug layer composed of tachylite magma (brittle fragmentation by plug 518 pressurization/decompression). Note that, XRD analysis discard the presence of any hydrothermal-induced 519 mineral phases that can be related to involvement of hydrothermal fluids or fragmentation of surrounding rocks 520 (phreatomagmatic mechanisms). Brittle fragmentation is also evidenced by the ash morphologies (Fig. 5c). CVX, 521 SLD, AR and SPH values are skewed toward higher median values for tachylite ash than sideromelane particles, 522 reflecting typical tachylite textures with rough surfaces and no significant particle deformation. Moreover, ash 523 particles with CVX, SLD and AR values of 1.00 are not observed, suggesting that magma viscosity is too high to 524 produce round droplets like it was the case in the golden ash component.

525 5.1.3. Lava-ocean interactions provoking hydrovolcanic explosions

When a lava flow enters a body of water like the sea at relatively high fluxes (> 4 $m^3 s^{-1}$), hydrovolcanic 526 527 explosions producing laze can occur like it was the case at Kilauea volcano (Mattox and Mangan 1997; Neal et al. 528 2019), and at PdF during the April 2007 eruption (Fig. 3a), which was fed by a lava peak flux of at least 200 m³ s⁻ 529 ¹ (Staudacher et al. 2009). Laze is characterized by the emission of steam clouds highly concentrated in 530 hydrochloric acid and glass shards (Carlos et al. 2018). According to Mattox and Mangan (1997), the ideal 531 water/magma ratio to provoke littoral explosions is around 0.15 and an open mixing of lava and seawater (when 532 the mouth of several lava tubes or lava channels are exposed to sea waves) is the most efficient situation to produce 533 unconsolidated deposits of glassy, dense lava fragments. The particles formed during the 2007 seawater-provoked 534 explosions were immediately quenched and show a glassy matrix with rare microlites (Limu o Pele glass shards) 535 and more abundant phenocrysts of olivine, already present within the lava flow itself, as it was described in Hawaii 536 (Potuzak et al. 2008). The dendritic texture observed in very scarce particles (Fig. 3a) suggest that some of the 537 fragmented material experienced not instantaneous but fast quenching. The particles show typical fractured 538 features on their surfaces and inside the matrix glass. Concentric fractures are often observed around the olivine 539 phenocrysts (Fig. 3a). We suggest that the intensity of the sudden fragmentation, the almost instantaneous 540 quenching as well as the thermic contraction are the main cause of these brittle features (Büttner et al. 1999; 541 Zimanowski et al. 2015). Extreme AR values (down to 0.05) reflect the formation of typical elongated glassy542 shards particles (Fig. 5d) during these hydrovolcanic explosions.

543 5.1.4. The April 2007 caldera collapse: phreatic (or phreatomagmatic) explosions associated with secondary 544 fault-shear fragmentation

545 The deposit associated with the ash emission during the April 2007 caldera collapse (Figs. 6a and 6b) is 546 characterized by the quasi absence of juvenile fragments. Fully crystallized gabbro fragments suggest that the 547 emitted particles originate from intrusive levels of the caldera wall and from the destroyed, collapsed piston. The 548 very scarce non-altered juvenile particles may belong to recent and still partially molten magmas stored at shallow 549 levels within the lava pile that accumulated within the Dolomieu caldera, as molten lava flows within the newly 550 formed caldera wall were visible just after the main collapse (Fig. 6b). These scarce juvenile particles cannot be 551 related to the eruptive triggers, but the interstitial and relatively viscous melt within a crystal-rich gabbroic system 552 might play a significant role in the fragmentation efficiency.

553 The coarser particles (> 125 μ m) of the deposits generally show round or smooth shapes while the finer 554 particles (< 63 µm) are mainly composed of blocky fragments of gabbroic crystals (Figs. 3b, 5e and 6). This is 555 clearly evidenced by the SPH values that decrease toward finer grain sizes. SEM images (Fig. 3b and 6) confirm 556 that the fine particles are significantly more angular than the coarse particles and that the coarse round particles 557 are often fractured. The ash emissions observed during the April 2007 incremental caldera collapse at PdF have 558 been firstly interpreted as phreatic driven, based on preliminary petrologic observations (Staudacher et al. 2009). 559 The quasi absence of juvenile particles, and the presence of particle clusters, and montmorillonite (clay) and 560 hematite phases, are in accordance with this first interpretation. As shown by analogue experiments (Buckland et 561 al. 2018), we suggest that the coarse and fine particles are genetically linked, with the fine and blocky particles 562 originating from the abrasion of the coarse and smoothed particles. We also suggest that wall rock abrasion and 563 fragmentation was effective during the caldera piston collapse, forming a syn-collapse cataclasite as we observe 564 very similar brittle features as those found within fault gauge (e.g. Engelder 1974; Marone and Sholtz 1989; 565 Heilbronner and Keulen 2006), basal shear zones of thick lava flows (Latutrie et al. 2017), dome boundaries 566 (Cashman et al. 2008) or conduit margins (Pallister et al. 2013). As these finely fractured rocks were transported 567 in the atmosphere before deposition, we lost some of the features observed in typical fault gauge (such as the 568 microstructures and faults as well as specific organizations of the particles). But our observations (Figs. 6c and 6d) 569 support that the ash shapes produced during the April 2007 caldera collapse are very likely the product of faultshear mechanism. The ubiquity of fine ash particles is also in accordance with this hypothesis, although elutriation
mechanisms may occur within the ring fault system and during the collapse, preferentially injecting the fine ash
particles into the atmosphere.

573 5.1.5. The March 1860 violent Strombolian eruption: identification of phreatomagmatic interactions

Contemporaneous observations suggest that the March 1860 eruption was triggered by a sudden arrival 574 575 of hydrothermal and/or meteoritic water within the newly drained and still hot volcanic conduits and reservoirs 576 (Michon et al. 2013). This hypothesis is supported by our results. The ubiquity of non-juvenile particles (89 to 98 577 % of gabbroic particles with rough or blocky shapes as well as altered recycled particles) suggest an origin of the 578 emitted material from erosion of the conduit walls at different depths (Fig. 3c). The low juvenile content indicates 579 that the magma involved was not sufficient to provoke such an eruption. Moreover, the scarce juvenile particles 580 have a very low vesicle content. The contribution of external and/or hydrothermal fluids could have indeed 581 provoked the fragmentation of the conduit wall rocks still partially hot and partially filled with molten juvenile 582 magma (2 to 11 % of observed juvenile ash). Small amount of hematite in these deposits may be related to acid 583 leaching or post-depositional alteration due to the presence of hydrothermal fluids, even if further studies are 584 needed to confirm this hypothesis. No significant morphology trends are observed in these two samples (Fig. 5f) 585 due to the wide variety of ash components. However, CVX, SLD and SPH medians are systematically high, 586 reflecting the presence of blocky particles associated with brittle fragmentation. Slightly higher AR values 587 compared to the juvenile ash formed by ductile fragmentation, also suggest that no post-fragmentation deformation 588 as well as no significant ductile mechanisms played a role in these phreatomagmatic eruptions.

589 5.1.6. The Bellecombe Tephra: identification of phreatic explosions

590 The investigated samples of the Bellecombe Tephra (BE_BASE_1 and BE_TOP_1) are only composed 591 of non-juvenile particles. Alteration of the particles and presence of montmorillonite (clay) and quartz (generally 592 formed within high temperatures hydrothermal systems) highlight that these particles were fragmented during 593 phreatic phases that implicated one or several hydrothermal systems. We also suggest that these phreatic (and 594 possibly phreatomagmatic for some layers which are not studied in this paper, Ort et al. 2016) explosions involve 595 variably crystallized intrusive rocks, because of the presence of gabbro fragments, similarly to the March 1860 596 deposits. The presence of particle clusters can also be due to aggregation in the air favored by hydrothermal water, 597 (Mueller et al. 2017) or post-depositional cementation (clay). Similarly to the phreatomagmatic deposits of the

- 598 March 1860 eruption, no significant trends are observed in morphology data (Fig. 5g) and the ubiquity of the non-
- 599 juvenile blocky particles are revealed by the relatively high SPH measured values.
- 600 5.2. Magmatic and/or non-magmatic fragmentation efficiencies

601 The yellow field in Figure 7 show that the investigated Hawaiian deposits are moderately well sorted and 602 with median grain size values skewed toward relatively coarse grains: the magma breakup (or ductile 603 fragmentation) within lava fountains has a homogenous and moderate efficiency. Our results highlight that 604 fragmentation efficiencies attained during Hawaiian activity at PdF is not necessarily correlated with the eruption 605 intensities. When magma ascends in a conduit following a closed system degassing path and tends to crystallize, 606 the fragmentation mechanism moves from ductile to brittle because of increasing viscosity. This higher 607 fragmentation efficiency is recorded in the CH1 sample from the Black Tephra deposits of the Piton Chisny (orange 608 circle in Fig. 7). The fact that this sample is very poorly sorted reflect the heterogeneity of the magmatic textures 609 (ranging from crystal-poor and vesicle-rich sideromelane to crystal-rich and vesicle-poor tachylite particles) which 610 plays a key role on the fragmentation mechanisms (ranging from ductile to brittle).

611 As soon as the lava flux decreases, the magmas have more time to degas, degassing moves from closed 612 to open system, and the melt crystallizes within the eruptive conduit, increasing the magma viscosity. The deposits 613 related to these mild Strombolian or transient explosions are well sorted and have relatively coarse grain size 614 median values (grey field in Fig. 7): the partially brittle fragmentation during the bubble explosions at PdF has the 615 weakest fragmentation efficiency investigated in this study and it is likely related to the transition from closed to 616 open system degassing (large bubbles, volatile percolation and gas slugs). The tachylite deposits from the 617 September 2016 eruption (big black circle in Fig. 7) reflects a better fragmentation efficiency enhanced by the 618 overpressure caused by the local occurrence of a shallow and highly crystallized magma plug.

The deposit associated to the hydrovolcanic explosions caused by the lava entry in the sea observed during the April 2007 is very well sorted with an intermediate grain size median (blue triangle in Fig. 7), reflecting a quite efficient fragmentation, which results both from the lower temperature and fully degassed nature of the melt in the lava flows, producing an increase in melt viscosity with respect to conduit conditions.

The two samples representative of the March 1860 summit eruption (pink squares in Fig. 7) are well
sorted and have intermediate median sizes. These results highlight that phreatomagmatic interactions enhance both
magmas and surrounding rocks fragmentation.

The Upper Bellecombe samples show lower median grain sizes and slightly better sorting compared to the Lower Bellecombe ones (green circles in Fig. 7). The wide range of median grain sizes and sorting that span the phreatomagmatic as well as phreatic deposits reflects the emission of heterogeneous tephra in terms of components and a potentially high fragmentation efficiency for some explosions.

Finally, the deposit related to the April 2007 caldera collapse event is interestingly the finest of this study (green square in Fig. 7) with an intermediate sorting value. We suggest that the addition of the phreatic explosions that occurred during the caldera collapse plus the secondary fault-shear fragmentation, may have produced the extreme fragmentation recorded by this very fine deposit. Scarce residual interstitial melt within the shallow magmatic system might also contribute to the gabbro fragmentation.

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636 6. Conclusions and risk implications

637 In our study, we were able to identify a broad range of processes that control and/or enhance the magmatic
638 and/or non-magmatic particle fragmentation at Piton de la Fournaise shield basaltic volcano. We list them here
639 with their associated hazard implications.

640 (i) Hawaiian fountains usually produce a moderate amount of coarse ash during their ductile magmatic 641 fragmentation. The hazard is related mostly to the formation of abundant Pele's hairs that can accumulate within 642 proximal areas and sometimes in densely inhabited areas, like during the April 2007 eruption (Di Muro et al. 643 2015), impacting people and livestock due to their fibrous, acicular shape. More recently, the April 2020 eruption 644 at PdF produced a large amount of Pele's hairs, which were found over a large part of the Reunion Island (Fig. S3, 645 Table S4, http://opgc.fr/vobs/so_interface.php?so=dynvolc). In addition, a previous study showed that Pele's hairs, 646 can host a large number of smaller particles, which represent a potential surface for heterogeneous nucleation of 647 salts from the vapor phase (Moune et al. 2007). Ash particles in general can react with the acid gases during their 648 transport in the volcanic plume and transport pollutants over a wide area (Delmelle et al. 2007).

649 (ii) Mild Strombolian explosions at PdF produce few ash during the bubbles (or slug) explosions at the
650 magma free surface. However, syn-eruptive degassing-driven crystallization can enhance ash emissions because
651 of the increase in magma viscosity, triggering brittle fragmentation of still gas-rich magmas. These relatively
652 sudden changes in activity are unpredictable and can impact people approaching the eruptive sites.

(iii) On volcanic islands, more particularly on basaltic shield volcanoes such as PdF or Hawaii, low
viscosity lava flows are likely to reach the ocean, sometimes creating gas and ash emissions. This also represents
a risk to the local population because of the ash and shard fragments but also because of the acid gas emissions
(Carlos et al. 2018). This emphasizes the need to monitor and anticipate the lava flow expansions and directions
depending on the topography, lava flux and viscosity (Harris et al. 2019).

(iv) The presence of fluids at shallow levels within the PdF magmatic system has also been identified in
this study as an amplifier of the magmatic and the country rock fragmentation. The interaction between magma
and external fluids is interpreted as playing a potential role in some unusually high explosivity PdF eruptions (i.e.
March 1860 eruption). In some cases, non-juvenile dense particle ubiquity within the investigated samples can be
related to phreatic phases.

(v) Finally, secondary fault-shear fragmentation, have been identified as the most efficient mechanisms
to form non-juvenile fine ash particles during the Dolomieu caldera collapse in April 2007. The extremely fine ash
formed during such events, even if localized, can stay longer in suspension and can affect touristic and local
populations.

667 In conclusion, the observations made on the eruptive dynamics associated with the ash characterization 668 highlights the diversity of the basaltic fragmentation mechanisms at PdF (and this can be extrapolated to other 669 basaltic volcanoes), which are important to understand in order to anticipate the associated hazards and potential 670 risks.

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679 Figures



c					Distance from the source	Ash fraction (<2 mm,	Fine ash fraction (<64 μm,	Juvenile	
Eruption	Eruptive dynamics	Sample name	Sample lo	calisation	(m)	wt%)	wt%)	ash (%)	Description of the eruptive activity and/or associated deposits
September 2016	Hawaiian fountaining	1 REU161211_4	S21.22492°	E55.70975°	≈ 100	10	0	100	- Sustained Hawaiian fountaining occurred at relatively high lava flux,
May 2016		REU160531_5	S21.26828°	E55.72406°		27	0	100	producing crystal-poor and vesicle-rich sideromelane (golden pumice and fluidal) pyroclasts
		2 REU160531_4				13	0	100	which are heterogeneous in term of grain size.
		REU160531_3				14	0	100	
July 2015		3 REU150731_4	S21.22108°	E55.71672°		58	0	100	
May 2015		4 REU150520_3	S21.25895°	E55.72429°		13	0	100	
February 2015		5 REU150212_13	S21.25013°	E55.70597°		31	0	100	
June 2014		6 REU141118_6	S21.25085°	E55.71919°		13	0	100	
Piton Chisny (1450 to 1630 AD)	Hawaiian fountaining	CH_5	S21.23368°	E55.66518°	≈ 400	6	0	100	- Ash collected within the Piton Chisny black tephra deposits.
	Opening phase	CH_1				61	5	100	Cf. log in supplementary material (Fig. S1).
September 2018 July 2018	Mild Strombolian (opened vent)	8 REU180916_3	S21.25940°	E55.70130°	50	6	0 100 - Mild and transient Strombolian explosions occurred at	- Mild and transient Strombolian explosions occurred at relatively low lava flux,	
		9 REU180807_7	S21.23518°	E55.69999°		5	0	100	producing lapilli-dominated sideromelane pyroclasts for both eruptions.
September 2016	Mild Strombolian	REU161211_6	S21.22492°	E55.70975°	200	97	0	100	- Relatively more energetic Strombolian explosions occured at relatively high lava flux,
	(partially closed vent)	REU161211_10			100	8	0	100	producing (i) ash-dominated sporadic plumes (tachylite pyroclasts, REU161211_6), and (ii) lapilli-dominated projections (dominance of sideromelane pyroclasts, REU161211_10).
April 2007	Ash emission during lava entry in the sea	10 REU0704_052	S21.29425°	E55.79800°	1000	99	1	100	 - 5 mm thick ash deposits collected on a clean surface after the main ash emission phase from the shoreline delimited by the newly formed April 2007 lava flow.
April 2007	Transient ash emission during caldera collapse	11 REU0704_171	521.24278°	E55.69417°	1500	100	87	1	 4 mm thick ash deposits collected on a clean surface after the main caldera collapse phase. Ash were emitted during the formation of the caldera.
March 1860	Violent Strombolian	REU131112 PF_2	S21.24376°	E55.70639°	≈ 500	56	1	2	- Ash collected within the lower part of the stratigraphic log described in Michon et al. (2013).
						100	4	11	Cf. log in supplementary material (Fig. S1).
Bellecombe ash (4900 to 2250 BP)	Unknown, ash-rich deposits related the decompression of shallow systems	BE_TOP_2 BE_TOP_1 BE_BASE_2 BE_BASE_1	S21.22724°	E55.67450°	≈ 500	59	2	0	- Ash collected within different layers of the stratigraphic log described in Ort et al. (2016).
						47	3	0	Cf. log in the supplementary material (Fig. S2).
					unknown	91	11	0	«BASE» samples correspond to the Lower Bellecombe Tephra (LBT).
						85	32	0	«TOP» samples correspond to the Upper Bellecombe Tephra (UBT).

681	Fig. 1 – (a) Digital Elevation Model of La Reunion Island hosting the Piton de la Fournaise (PdF) volcano (red
682	square) and the Observatoire Volcanologique du Piton de la Fournaise (OVPF). (b) Map of PdF volcano with the
683	studied deposits. The green and orange squares correspond to the deposits sampled during recent activity (2014-
684	2018) and historical eruptions, respectively. (c) List and description of all the studied samples. The percentage of
685	juvenile ash is measured on specific grain size bins which are described in the results part.
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Fig. 2 – Eruptions and deposits pictures and Backscattered Electron Scanning Microscope (SEM-BSE) images of
 the respective ash particles, part 1. (a) Hawaiian fountaining activity producing golden pumice and fluidal scoria
 pyroclasts. (b) Deposits from intense Hawaiian fountaining. CH1 corresponds to the initial phase and CH5
 corresponds to the later, steady phase. (c) Mild Strombolian activity producing sideromelane pyroclasts. (d)
 Transient explosions producing incandescent particules (sideromelane pyroclasts, labelled 1) associated with
 discreet ash plumes (tachylite pyroclasts, labelled 2).



Fig. 3 – Eruptions and deposits pictures and SEM-BSE images of the respective ash particles, part 2. (a) Lava
 entry in the sea producing a laze and ash emission. (b) Ash emission during major caldera collapse at PdF.
 Particles within the particle clusters are randomly distributed. (c) Ash deposits from the March 1860 summit
 eruption at PdF. Sketch from Velain (1878) representing the Brûlant crater a few years after the eruption. (d)
 Bellecombe tephra. Particles within the particle clusters are randomly distributed.



Fig. 4 – Particle Size Distribution of the different studied deposits. Coarse ash boundary is represented by the black dashed line at -1 Φ (2 mm). Fine ash boundary is represented by the black dashed line at 4 Φ (64 mm). The samples are represented with a color code reflecting their associated eruptive styles. LDPSA is for Laser Diffraction Particle Size Analyzer.



Fig. 5 – Apparent Projected Shape of Ash for each sample, in terms of convexity, solidity and aspect ratio, with
 the grain size used for each measurement. Vertical line within the boxes represents the median and box
 boundaries represent the 25th and 75th percentiles of each dataset. Error bars represent 2.7σ of each dataset and
 outlier data are represented with crosses. Sample color code as per Figure 4.



Fig. 6 – The Dolomieu caldera of PdF before (a) and after (b) the collapse, with visible lava flows. The yellow

- arrows mark the La Soufrière crater. (c) and (d) SEM-BSE images of the products emitted during the collapse.

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Fig. 7 – Median (Md_Φ) vs. sorting (σ_Φ) plot. Sample color code as in Figures 4 and 5. Considering the proximal
nature and similar sampling distance of all samples, Md_Φ is mostly considered as a fragmentation efficiency
proxy, and σ_Φ reflects the degree of homogeneity of the deposits in term of texture, of componentry, and thus of
fragmentation mechanisms.

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