

# Depths of magma chambers at three volcanic provinces in the Karlıova region of Eastern Turkey

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## 1 Abstract

2 The size of a volcanic eruption, and thus the associated potential hazards, depends partly on the  
3 depth, geometry, and size of the source magma chamber. To estimate magma chamber depths and  
4 sizes, we apply a newly developed analytical method, based on the aspect ratio (length/thickness)  
5 of dikes, to three volcanoes in the Karlıova region of Eastern Turkey, namely Turnadağ, Varto,  
6 and Özenç. The results indicate that the depths of the source chambers are between 2 and 4 km at  
7 Turnadağ, 2 to 5 km at Varto, both of which are located in transtensional tectonic regimes, but  
8 from 22 to 27 km at Özenç, which is located in a convergent tectonic regime. A similar reservoir  
9 depth at Özenç is indicated by seismic tomography, and this data also suggests that the reservoir  
10 is laterally continuous for more than 40 km. The large volume of ignimbrites ( $>40 \text{ km}^3$ ) associated  
11 with Varto, a collapse caldera, indicates that caldera subsidence may have maintained the excess  
12 magmatic pressure (through tectonic forcing) in the chamber over a longer time than during normal

13 pyroclastic eruptions. The dike aspect ratios further indicate magmatic overpressures of 13-21 MPa  
14 for Varto, 13-17 MPa for Turnadağ, and 26-31 MPa for Özenç. The combined results from seismic  
15 tomography, analytical models and magma compositions indicate that both Turnadağ and Varto  
16 volcanoes, which are typical stratovolcanoes composed of mostly intermediate, and more rarely,  
17 acidic magmas, were fed by two very shallow and comparatively small magma chambers (2-5 km  
18 depth). Whereas less evolved magmas were erupted from Özenç, which hosts predominantly  
19 basaltic and intermediate lavas and dikes that were fed by a deep reservoir at 22-27 km depth. Our  
20 tomographic models show that none of the volcanoes are located directly over the centre of a deep  
21 magma reservoir. Our data also indicates that the magma in the reservoir has migrated between 34  
22 and 40 km in a right lateral motion (to the east) below Varto and Turnadağ, respectively, and 23  
23 km in a left lateral motion (to the west) at Özenç over the past 3 Ma. This lateral propagation of  
24 magma can be explained by tectonic escape of the Anatolian block to the west through the Northern  
25 Anatolian Fault and the Varto Fault Zone over the last 6 Ma.

26

27 Key words: Magma, reservoir, dikes, stress fields, magma chamber depth, seismic tomography

28

## 29 **Introduction**

30 Understanding magma storage is of fundamental importance when considering the likely  
31 magnitude, timing and location of volcanic eruptions (e.g. [Martel et al. 1998](#); [Cayol et al. 2000](#);  
32 [Longpré et al. 2008](#); [Ofeigsson et al. 2011](#); [Browning et al. 2015](#)). For example, magmatic  
33 propagation paths are partly related to the crustal depth of the magma source ([Bower and Woods](#)  
34 [1997](#)). It is widely recognized that shallow magma chambers influence crustal stresses such that  
35 swarms of inclined sheets, and both radial and ring dikes, are produced ([Tibaldi and Pasquaré](#)  
36 [2008](#); [Bistacchi et al. 2012](#); [Browning and Gudmundsson, 2015](#)), whereas deep reservoirs tend to  
37 produce vertical dikes of generally mafic composition ([Gudmundsson 1983](#); [Ernst et al. 2001](#)).  
38 The type of a volcanic eruption is also closely related to the depth of the volcanoes magma chamber  
39 ([Bonatti and Harrison 1988](#); [Lipman 1997](#); [Scandone et al. 2007](#)). Long-lived (> 1 Ma) composite  
40 volcanoes have been shown to be mostly supplied with magma from shallow magma chambers

41 which, in turn, receive their magma from deeper reservoirs (Gudmundsson 2006; Browning et al.  
42 2015; Gudmundsson 2016; Karaoğlu et al. 2016). These double-magma chamber systems can be  
43 compartmentalized both vertically (in terms of depth) and laterally (Gudmundsson 2012; Karaoğlu  
44 et al. 2016, 2017a). The deeper parts of such double-chamber systems (the magma reservoirs) are  
45 commonly located in the lower crust or at the crust mantle-boundary (Gudmundsson 2000). In all  
46 cases, for an eruption to occur, either the shallow magma chamber, or the deep-seated reservoir or  
47 (as is more common) both must rupture so as to propagate a dike, or an inclined sheet, to the  
48 surface (Gudmundsson 2006, 2012; Chestler and Grosfils 2013; Le Corvec et al. 2013; Caricchi et  
49 al. 2014). Magma chambers are also systems that concentrate stresses and interact mechanically  
50 (Martel et al. 1998; Gudmundsson and Andrew 2007; Elshaafi and Gudmundsson 2017a, b). In  
51 this regard, few places on Earth show such complex volcanotectonic stress relations as the Karlıova  
52 region of eastern Turkey, where the Karlıova Triple Junction (KTJ) has experienced complex  
53 orogenesis and hosted voluminous magma discharge (Karaoğlu et al. 2016). The KTJ hosts  
54 complex mechanical interactions between the Arabian, Eurasian and Anatolian plates (Şengör and  
55 Yılmaz 1981; Barka 1992; Okay and Tüysüz 1999). The relationship between tectonics and  
56 magma propagation in such triple-junction tectonic settings remains poorly understood (as  
57 discussed by Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009; Şengör 2014; Karaoğlu et al. 2017b).

58 Triple-junctions are characterized by high-heat flow, abundant seismicity, and volcanism  
59 (e.g. Furlong and Schwartz 2004; Şengör 2014; Karaoğlu et al. 2017b). The KTJ is a continental  
60 triple junction (Şengör 2014) consisting of nonsubductable continental crust (Fig. 1). The  
61 convergence between Arabia and Eurasia plates has resulted in escape tectonics to the west of the  
62 KTJ (Şengör and Yılmaz 1981; Barka 1992; Reilinger et al. 2006). The extruding block is bounded,  
63 and structurally controlled, by two conjugate transform fault zones namely the right-lateral North  
64 Anatolian Fault Zone (NAFZ) to the north, and the left-lateral East Anatolian Fault Zone (EAFZ)  
65 from the southeast (Fig. 1). The westward extrusion of the Anatolian plate has resulted also in  
66 intense seismicity (Barka 1992; Okay and Tüysüz 1999; Bozkurt 2001). GPS data indicate that the  
67 eastern part of the Anatolian plate moves at a rate of 20 mm/yr with respect to the Eurasian plate  
68 (Reilinger et al. 2006), where the total displacement is about 85 km along the NAFZ over the last  
69 6 Ma (Barka 1992; Şengör et al. 2004; Karaoğlu et al. 2017b).

70 The NAFZ commenced activity around 12 Ma, whilst the EAFZ developed around 6 Ma  
71 (Şengör et al. 2004; Karaoğlu et al. 2017b). Following the development of the EAFZ, westward

72 extrusion of the Anatolian plate promoted the initiation of a strike-slip tectonic regime around the  
73 KTJ. In this area, complex interactions result in complex lithospheric kinematics including tectonic  
74 inversions and uplifts, extensive seismicity, larger-than-normal permeability resulting in increased  
75 groundwater flow, and frequent episodes of dike emplacement, some of which culminate in  
76 volcanic eruptions (Karaoğlu et al. 2016, 2017b). After a dormant period of 2 Ma, the first volcanic  
77 activity commenced with regional strain induced by the KTJ at around 3 My. Dike emplacement  
78 in the southern sector indicates a possible E–W dominant direction of dilation since 3 My  
79 (Karaoğlu et al. 2017b). Moreover, westward extrusion of the Anatolian plate generated a  
80 NE–SW-trending extensional/transensional dominant stress field favoring magmatism at the  
81 KTJ. This wedge extrusion was accommodated by high strain and encouraged magmatic paths as  
82 feeders for the volcanism. This period represented the initiation of minor volcanic activity caused  
83 by major extension where volcanism around the KTJ began around 3 Ma (Hubert-Ferrari et al.  
84 2009; Karaoğlu et al. 2017b).

85 Many techniques have been used to estimate magma storage depths over the past decades.  
86 The most frequently used are geodetic inversion techniques including inversion of the ‘Mogi-  
87 model’ as applied by Mogi (1958). Seismic tomography (Karaoğlu et al. 2017a), and  
88 geobarometric studies (Jellinek and DePaolo 2003) have also been used to obtain the geometry of  
89 active magma chambers. Gudmundsson (1983, 1995) and Becerril et al. (2013), however, used  
90 dikes modelled as fluid-filled cracks and applied fracture mechanics principles to estimate magma  
91 chamber depths. More specifically, seismic methods have been used to determine the locations of  
92 shallow and active crustal magma chambers at depths of 3 to 6 km (e.g. Sanford and Einarsson  
93 1982; Orcutt et al. 1984; Macdonald 1986), as well as the locations of deep-seated reservoirs in  
94 the lower part of crust or at the crust-mantle boundary at depths ranging from 10 to 60 km (e.g.  
95 Gök et al. 2003; Reed et al. 2014; Lemnifi et al. 2017b). However, fossil magma chambers and  
96 plutons cannot always be reliably traced using seismic tomography and geodetic methods (e.g.  
97 MacLeod and Yaouancq 2000; Bachmann and Bergantz 2008; Gudmundsson 2012). For example,  
98 Becerril et al. (2013) calculated the depth of magma reservoirs supplying dikes at El Hierro  
99 (Canary Islands) as being approximately 20 km below sea-level (bsl), an estimate that was  
100 supported by the hypocentral locations of seismic swarms (Becerril et al. 2013). Hence, the aspect  
101 ratio of feeder dikes is a useful method in providing a rough estimate of the depth to both ancient  
102 and active magma chambers (e.g. Cayol et al. 2000; Annen et al. 2008; Becerril et al. 2013). In

103 this study, we use both seismic and dike-aspect ratio methods to estimate the depths and excess  
104 pressures of magma sources in the Karlıova region. Using this approach, dike measurements are  
105 combined with analytical fracture-mechanic models and seismic tomography to estimate first-  
106 order depths of magma storage regions for three volcanic provinces in Eastern Turkey.

### 107 **Geologic and tectonic setting**

108 Neotectonic activity in the study area commenced with the north-south intracontinental  
109 collision between Arabia and Eurasia which began in the middle-late Miocene ([Şengör and Yılmaz](#)  
110 [1981](#); [Şengör et al. 1985](#)). Extension of the Anatolian plate, over the last 6 Ma, generated a stress  
111 field suitable for volcanism around Karlıova ([Dhont and Chorowicz 2006](#); [Hubert-Ferrari et al.](#)  
112 [2009](#); [Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)). An ongoing N-S directed shortening phase along the boundary of  
113 the Arabian and Eurasian plates allowed the westward mass transfer of Anatolia, which has  
114 frequently been considered a rigid plate bounded by the NAFZ and EAFZ both of which meet at  
115 Karlıova (Fig. 1) (e.g. [Dhont and Chorowicz 2006](#); [Sançar et al. 2015](#); [Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)).

116 Following continental collision, there was a period of Neogene–Quaternary volcanism  
117 expressed by the formation of stratovolcanoes and eruption of predominantly calc-alkaline  
118 products (e.g. [Pearce et al. 1990](#); [Yılmaz et al. 1998](#); [Karaoğlu et al. 2005](#)), as well as minor  
119 alkaline rocks (e.g. [Innocenti et al. 1976](#); [Alici et al. 2001](#); [Özdemir et al. 2006](#); [Lustrino et al.](#)  
120 [2010](#)). Quaternary volcanism is confined to the Kula area in western Anatolia, whereas Holocene  
121 volcanic activity is more abundant in central, and especially, eastern Anatolia where the most  
122 recent activity occurred at the Nemrut volcano in 1441 ([Karaoğlu et al. 2005](#); [Italiano et al. 2013](#)).

123 The KTJ is a zone of active continental collision that displays complex inversion-type  
124 tectonics ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#); Fig. 1a). The location, timing and geochemical characteristics of  
125 its volcanism are impacted by complex interactions between the colliding Eurasian and Afro-  
126 Arabian plates. Escape tectonics of the Anatolian plate to the west gave rise to a strike-slip motion  
127 along the NAFZ and EAFZ and contributed to the closure of the Neotethyan Ocean as a result of  
128 Arabia-Eurasian convergence ([Barka 1992](#); [Okay and Tüysüz 1999](#); [Bozkurt 2001](#); [Lemnifi et al.](#)  
129 [2017a](#)). Structural and stress data indicate a transitional deformation from pure compression  
130 (before 12 Ma) to inversion tectonics induced by compressional-related extensional/transensional  
131 tectonics (after 12 Ma) for the KTJ ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)). Volcanism that initiated ~6 Ma is  
132 directly associated to incremental and complex deformation within the KTJ. Following the  
133 formation of the NAFZ and the EAFZ (Fig. 1a), westward extrusion of the Anatolian block and

134 inversion tectonics on the Eurasian block induced an E—W dominant stress field which favored  
135 magma ascent (e.g. [Pearce et al. 1990](#); [Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#); [Lemnifi et al. 2017a](#)).

### 136 **Initiation of volcanism at the Karhova triple junction**

137 Volcanic activity related to the extrusion tectonics of the Anatolian plate started with  
138 primarily acidic magma generating eruptions dated between 4.4 and 6.06 Ma ([Poidevin et al.](#)  
139 [1998](#)). The first indication of this extension-related volcanism ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)) is dated  
140 around 6 Ma using a fission track technique from rhyolitic obsidians collected approximately 30  
141 km southwestern of the KTJ on the East Anatolian Fault (EAF) ([Poidevin et al. 1998](#)). After a  
142 dormant period of 2 Ma, the volcanic activity commenced with regional wedge-extrusion related  
143 strain induced by the KTJ at around 3 Ma ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)). Radiometric age data show that  
144 the first eruptions initiated at 3.6 Ma on the southern flank of the Varto caldera located at the  
145 easternmost part of the KTJ ([Pearce et al. 1990](#)). [Hubert-Ferrari et al. \(2009\)](#) documented a  
146 radiometric age of 3.1 Ma recording the earliest activity on the pivot point of the KTJ. [Turnadağ](#)  
147 volcanism is dated at around 2.8 Ma at the westernmost part of the area ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)).  
148 Radiometric age data also indicates that magma migrated from east to west, with time, across the  
149 Varto Fault Zone (VFZ), which is a direct continuation of the NAFZ ([Karaoğlu et al. 2016, 2017](#);  
150 [Fig. 1c](#)). The parallel alignment of dikes in the Özenç volcanic area suggests a maximum principal  
151 stress ( $\sigma_1$ ) in the N—S direction and a minimum principal stress ( $\sigma_3$ ) in the E—W direction (e.g.  
152 [Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)). The most recent eruption records are dated between 0.46 and 0.73 Ma from  
153 two volcanic domes in the southern part of the Varto caldera ([Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009](#)).

154 Extensive volcanism, mostly high-K calc-alkaline, occurred in Karhova 3 Ma ([Pearce et](#)  
155 [al. 1990](#); [Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009](#); [Fig. 1](#)). During this time two polygenetic volcanoes in the  
156 eastern part of the KTJ erupted and emplaced mostly intermediate-composition lava flows and  
157 dikes ([Fig. 1c](#)). The VFZ partly controlled the initiation of the Varto volcano and the Özenç  
158 volcanic area ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#); [Fig. 1a](#)). The most recent stage of the volcanism in this area,  
159 since ~ 1 Ma, is characterized by domes and dike injections. Seismic tomography results suggest  
160 a 40 km-wide-zone of interconnected magma pockets or individual magma chambers that are fed  
161 from deeper levels where magma is generated through partial melting of the lithosphere ([Salah et](#)  
162 [al. 2011](#)). It has been proposed that there are numerous crustal low-velocity zones, predominantly  
163 at 25 km depth, and also a partially molten zone at 20-30 km depth ([Zor et al. 2003](#)).

164 Volcano-tectonics and geochemical studies in the region show that volcanic eruptions are  
165 mainly fed by dikes (i.e. fluid-driven fractures), many of which are cross-cutting (Fig. 1b). The  
166 dikes and their eruptions are associated with three central volcanoes, namely Turnadağ, Varto and  
167 Özenç (Karaoğlu et al. 2016, 2017a; Fig. 2a).

168 Both the Varto caldera complex and the Özenç volcanic province formed in the region  
169 experiencing inversion tectonics. This region is characterized by right-lateral and thrust faulting  
170 between the Arabian and Eurasian plates, which were predominantly driven by ongoing collision  
171 tectonics (Karaoğlu et al. 2017b). In contrast, Turnadağ volcano is located on the Anatolian block  
172 which has been subjected to westward extrusion tectonics (Fig. 1c). Petrological constraints and  
173 field studies indicate that the three volcanic centers exhibit distinct volcanic facies, and  
174 geochemical characteristics which indicate that they are fed from different magma  
175 chambers/reservoirs (e.g. Buket and Temel 1998; Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009; Sançar et al. 2015).

176 Turnadağ is a highly deformed polygenetic volcano that has been active for around 2.9 Ma  
177 (Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009). It is mostly composed of intermediate volcanic rocks which are dacitic  
178 to andesitic, but rarely basaltic, in composition (Buket and Temel 1998; Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009).  
179 In the western part of the KTJ, around Turnadağ volcano, there is an evidence of a shallow magma  
180 plumbing system (Karaoğlu et al. 2016). While many dike intrusions are observed in the area  
181 between the KTJ and the Turnadağ volcano, lava flows are of comparatively little volume  
182 (Karaoğlu et al. 2016, 2017b). The western part of the KTJ experienced rifting due to the  
183 movement of the Anatolian block to the west (Karaoğlu et al. 2017b), particularly at the junction  
184 point where the flame-like apophyses or fingers of injected magma are common (Fig. 2c).

185 Varto volcano, a collapse caldera 8 km in diameter, is located at the eastern end of the KTJ  
186 (Karaoğlu et al. 2017b; Fig. 3). The caldera's shape, a semi-circle, is partly due to its southern part  
187 being cut by faults (Fig. 1c). Tectonic deformation resulted in the dissection of the southern flank  
188 of this volcano mostly by NW–SE-striking dextral, normal and reverse faults. An N85°W-striking,  
189 high-angle normal fault which is sub-parallel to the NAFZ (Fig. 1c) is considered to have formed  
190 during the successive destruction of the southern part of Varto caldera since 1 Ma (Karaoğlu et al.  
191 2017b). The fault has been a major control on magma propagation in this region during the last 1  
192 My (Karaoğlu et al. 2017b). Synchronous normal faults show that the region has been directly  
193 controlled by a NW-trending extension since the initiation of volcanism around 3.6 Ma in the  
194 eastern part of the KTJ (Pearce et al. 1990).

195 The Özenç region is characterized mostly by effusive volcanism and is located to the south  
196 of the Varto caldera (Figs. 1, 2 and 5). Here, most lavas are dated at 1.96 Ma to 2.67 Ma (Hubert-  
197 Ferrari et al. 2009). The Özenç volcanic area is dominated by basaltic lava flows and intrusions  
198 (Fig 5), which contrasts with the geology of Turnadağ and Varto volcanoes (Pearce et al. 1990;  
199 Buket and Temel 1998; Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009).

200

## 201 **Methodology**

### 202 *Field measurements*

203 We measured 21 dikes associated with fissure-fed eruptions at three distinct volcanic  
204 centers in Eastern Turkey (Fig. 1b). Field measurements and remote sensing analysis, for obtaining  
205 their dimensions, were applied to find out the nature, depth and geometry of the magma sources  
206 in the Karlıova-Varto volcanic province. The thickness and length of each dikes visible on surface  
207 was measured using a tape measure, and its strike measurement was recorded. They were cross-  
208 checked and refined using Google Earth satellite imagery (25-50 cm pixel resolution), along with  
209 the geological map of Karaoğlu et al. (2017b). The thickness measurements were repeated at least  
210 five times along the dike, and then the average values were used for the thickness.

211

### 212 *Analytical calculations*

213 In the model used here we assume that magma propagates from a magma  
214 chamber/reservoir as fluid-driven fractures (hydrofractures; Gudmundsson 2011), that is, as dikes  
215 or inclined sheets. Dikes, as magma-driven fractures, are known to be injected magma from a  
216 shallow magma chamber. Most eruptions in stratovolcanoes are fed by inclined sheets that cut the  
217 volcano at angles considerably less than 90°, whereas those outside the stratovolcanoes are fed by  
218 subvertical regional dikes. Here the term “dike” is used as a generic term, for both inclined sheets  
219 and vertical dikes (Gudmundsson 1990; Pinel and Jaupart 2004; Bistachi et al. 2012). More  
220 specifically, dike propagation is driven by magmatic overpressure ( $p_o$ ) due partly to internal excess  
221 magmatic pressure in the chamber at the time of its rupture ( $p_e$ ) and dike/sheet injection. In other  
222 words, magma-chamber rupture and dike/sheet injection occurs when the excess pressure in the

223 chamber reaches the in-situ tensile strength ( $T_0$ ) of the host rock. As a result, when the following  
224 condition is satisfied roof/wall rupture, and dike injection, will occur (Gudmundsson 2011):

$$225 \quad p_l + p_e = \sigma_3 + T_0 \quad (1)$$

226 here  $p_l$  is the lithostatic stress and  $\sigma_3$  is the minimum compressive (maximum tensile) principal  
227 stress. Extensive field studies involving thousands of cross-cutting relationships, both among the  
228 intrusions themselves as well as between the intrusions and other intersected layers, such as lava  
229 flows, show that dikes and inclined sheets are, like other hydrofractures, mostly pure extension  
230 fractures. Extension fractures are commonly modelled as mode I cracks (e.g. Gudmundsson 1995,  
231 2006, 2011; Tibaldi 2015). In such a case, the  $\sigma_1$  and the intermediate principal ( $\sigma_2$ ) stresses are  
232 in the plane of the dike, whereas the minimum principal compressive stress ( $\sigma_3$ ) is perpendicular  
233 to the dike/sheet plane. This means that dike and intrusions sheet generally, although not  
234 exclusively, follow principal stress planes (Gudmundsson 2011, 2018; Browning and  
235 Gudmundsson 2015; Tibaldi 2015) thereby minimizing the energy needed to fracture the rock and  
236 form flow path (Gudmundsson 2018). When the dike meets a discontinuity between layers it may  
237 become arrested if the magmatic overpressure is not sufficient to overcome both the tensile  
238 strength and  $\sigma_3$  (Delaney and Pollard 1981; Martel et al. 1998; Scandone et al. 2007). In the case  
239 where dike propagation arrested, the intrusion may propagate laterally to form a sill (e.g. Scandone  
240 et al. 2007; Kusumoto et al. 2013; Barnett and Gudmundsson 2014).

241 When dikes or inclined sheets begin to propagate their magmatic overpressure ( $P_0$ ) at any  
242 vertical distance  $h$  above the point of initiation at the boundary of the chamber is given by  
243 Gudmundsson (2011) and Kusumoto et al. (2013):

$$244 \quad p_o = p_e + (\rho_r - \rho_m)gh + \sigma_d \quad (2)$$

245 where  $\rho_r$  is the average density of the host rock,  $\rho_m$  is the average density of the magma in the  
246 dike,  $g$  is acceleration due to gravity,  $h$  is the depth or dip dimension of the dike and  $\sigma_d$  is the  
247 differential stress (i.e. the difference between the vertical stress and minimum principal horizontal  
248 stress in the area where the dike is observed).

249 Most of the dikes observed in the field were vertical to sub-vertical and so we concentrate  
250 our analytical method on dikes rather than inclined sheets. At the point of initiation, the buoyancy  
251 term ( $\rho_r - \rho_m$ ) in Eq. (2) is zero, but as the dike propagates its height above point of initiation  
252 increases, and thus buoyancy affects the overpressure (Murase and McBirney 1973; Tibaldi and  
253 Pasquarè 2008). For basaltic dikes injected from a shallow chamber (1-3 km depth), the buoyancy  
254 can be negative (magma density greater than the average density of the host rock), positive (i.e.  
255 magma density is less than that of the host rock), or zero (i.e. magma density is equal to that of the  
256 host rock) – the latter case is also referred to as neutral buoyancy (Murase and McBirney 1973;  
257 Tibaldi and Pasquarè 2008; Gudmundsson 2011). For intermediate and acid magmas the buoyancy  
258 term is generally positive (Murase and McBirney 1973; Gudmundsson 2011). As the average  
259 density of andesitic magmas ( $2475 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ) is generally less than the average density of the upper  
260 crust in eastern Turkey ( $2800 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ), the magma will likely generate an overpressure as it travels  
261 upwards through the crust (Eq. 2) (e.g. Murase and McBirney 1973; Kushiro 1980; Gudmundsson  
262 2011). Overpressure ( $p_0$ ) in a feeder dike is thus of great importance for the eruption mechanism  
263 because overpressure controls partly the volumetric or effusion flow rate through the associated  
264 volcanic fissure (Parsons and Thompson 1991; Gudmundsson 2011; Kavanagh et al. 2015).

265 The volumetric flow rate of magma through a dike is a function of viscosity (assumed  
266 constant in this model) and overpressure, and the opening or aperture of the dike (e.g. Sanford and  
267 Einarsson 1982). The paleo-aperture of a dike is (to a first approximation) equal to its thickness,  
268 this being the difference between opening and thickness (reduction in opening as the magma  
269 solidifies) which is often around 10% (Gudmundsson 2011). The thickness (or opening) ratio of a  
270 dike and overpressure are normally smaller near the magma source than in the upper part of the  
271 crust (Delaney and Pollard 1981; Chaussard and Amelung 2014). This follows because (1) the  
272 Young's modulus for stiffness gradually, albeit irregularly, increases with depth, and (2) buoyancy  
273 contributes positively to magmatic overpressure with increasing height  $h$  above the source (Eq. 2),  
274 as long as the average density of the layers that the dike propagates through is higher than the  
275 density of the dike magma (Parsons and Thompson 1991; Matel 1998; Pinel and Jaupart 2004;  
276 Tibaldi and Pasquarè 2008; Gudmundsson 2011). Buoyancy is generally positive for all acid and  
277 intermediate magmas, as well as for the most common basaltic magmas except in the near-surface  
278 parts of the crust, as such when individual dikes are traced along dip with depth, they commonly  
279 become thinner (Pinel and Jaupart 2004; Tibaldi and Pasquarè 2008; Geshi et al. 2010).

280 Dike length should increase with depth in order to keep the volume rate of magma flow in  
281 the lower part of the dike equal to that in the upper part (Gudmundsson 1990). Many field  
282 measurements of the variation in dike thickness along strike show that the dike geometry in plan  
283 view is, to a first approximation, commonly that of a flat ellipse (Delaney and Pollard 1981;  
284 Gudmundsson 1983; Pollard and Segall 1987). The same geometry is observed for many other  
285 fluid-driven fractures, that is, hydrofractures (Valko and Economides 1995; Yew 1997; Kusumoto  
286 et al. 2013; Kusumoto and Gudmundsson 2014). This geometry suggests that the overpressure  
287 when the fracture propagation comes to an end is roughly uniform because for uniform pressure a  
288 crack should open up into a flat ellipse (Sneddon and Lowengrub 1969; Valko and Economides  
289 1995; Gudmundsson 2011). Therefore, for dikes, the magmatic overpressures can be estimated as  
290 a first-order approximation from the aspect (length/thickness) ratio of the dike, including feeder-  
291 dikes/volcanic fissures, volcanic fissures according to Sneddon and Lowengrub (1969), Pollard  
292 and Segall (1987) and Gudmundsson (2011)

$$293 \quad p_0 = \frac{\Delta u E}{2L(1-\nu^2)} \quad (3)$$

294 here  $\nu$  is the Poisson ratio, and  $E$  is the Young's modulus of the host rock,  $\Delta u$  is the maximum  
295 thickness (or opening) of the dike, and  $L$  is the horizontal length of the dike (Fig 1b). Because of  
296 the flat ellipse geometry discussed above, the maximum thickness can be taken as the measured  
297 average thickness of the dike in any section, so long as the sections are far from the lateral ends/tips  
298 of the dike (Gudmundsson 2011; Becerril et al. 2013). In the present study, the length and thickness  
299 of 21 dikes have been measured (Table 1). In order to minimize measurement uncertainty, multiple  
300 measurements of the same dike were made and the repeated measurements were then averaged.  
301 Measurements commonly possess an uncertainty of  $\pm 5\%$ .

302 The crustal segment of the Karlıova region consists of a pile of thick lava flows, layers and  
303 units of pyroclastic rocks, intrusive gabbro and granites, metamorphic rocks, as well as highly  
304 damaged fault rocks overlain by about 2 km of various types of sedimentary rocks and  
305 unconsolidated sediments (Türkünal 1980; Karaoğlu et al. 2017b). The density of such materials  
306 can normally range between 2000 and 3100 kg m<sup>-3</sup> (Gudmundsson 2011). Here we use an average  
307 crustal density of 2800 kg m<sup>-3</sup> which is similar to the average density of the upper crust in many  
308 places around the world such as the rift zones in Iceland and central Libya (e.g. Sanford and

309 Einarsson 1982; Gudmundsson 1990; Reed et al. 2014; Elshaafi and Gudmundsson 2017a). The  
310 static Young's modulus for the uppermost crust in this part of Turkey, based on laboratory tests  
311 on core samples, has been estimated to be the range 5-40 GPa (Gurocak et al. 2012; Karaoğlu et  
312 al. 2016). However, the in-situ Young's modulus is likely to be lower (by 1.5 to five times) than  
313 laboratory measurements due to the existence of fractures, cavities and planes of weakness that are  
314 not well-represented in the core samples measured in the laboratory (Gudmundsson 2011). In this  
315 study, we thus use an average crustal static Young's modulus of 5 GPa, and a typical Poisson's  
316 ratio of 0.25. While this Young's modulus is low, it is similar to the estimated static modulus for  
317 the thick Holocene pahoehoe lava flows, and the Pleistocene surface pyroclastic rocks and units,  
318 including hyaloclastites, in the rift zone of Iceland (Gudmundsson 2006).

### 319 *Tomographic methods*

320 Seismic-tomography methods have been previously applied to detect active magma chambers and  
321 reservoirs (e.g. West et al. 2001; Singh et al. 2006; Lees 2007). In addition, the technique is also  
322 used to ascertain the location of partially solidified magmatic bodies in long-lived volcanic areas  
323 particularly at Quaternary volcanoes (Konstantinou et al. 2007; Annen et al. 2008). The last  
324 volcanic activity in the Karlıova-Varto region is known to have occurred 0.46 Ma, although the  
325 region has been active since 2.8 Ma (Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009). In addition, the presence of active  
326 volcanism is known in this region and its immediate vicinity. The Nemrut Caldera volcano is  
327 located 85 km southeast of the Karlıova-Varto region, and is known as one of Turkey's most active  
328 volcanic areas (Karaoğlu et al. 2005). The last volcanic activity documented for the Quaternary  
329 Nemrut volcano was in 1441 AD (Karaoğlu et al. 2005). Thus, it is thought that the magma  
330 reservoir detected in the Karlıova-Varto region is strongly associated with long-lived (<3 Ma)  
331 volcanic activity. In this study, we used the seismic velocity model derived by Salah et al. (2011)  
332 for the eastern Anatolia to construct three new vertical cross-sections of P- and S-wave velocities,  
333 as well as the variation in the Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ) across the Varto-Karlıova volcanic region (Fig.  
334 6). This model was obtained by applying the tomography method of Zhao et al. (1992, 1994) on  
335 the arrival times of body waves generated by local shallow earthquakes in eastern Anatolia based  
336 on seismic data set of GEOFON and the Turknet (Turkish National Telemetric Earthquake  
337 Network). The method of Zhao et al. (1992, 1994, 2012) has been applied successfully to arrival  
338 times for seismic events occurring in a wide range of tectonic environments (Salah et al. 2011;  
339 Şengör and Yılmaz 1981; Barka 1992; Okay and Tüysüz 1999). It is adaptable to a general velocity

340 structure which includes several seismic velocity discontinuities, resulting in a complex  
341 topography (Zor et al. 2003; Gök et al. 2011; Lemnifi et al. 2017a). Initially, a 3-D grid is set for  
342 the model space so as to express the 3-D velocity variations. The seismic velocities are then taken  
343 as unknown parameters. Velocity at any point in the model is calculated by linear interpolation of  
344 the velocity values at the eight grid nodes surrounding that point. The method uses an efficient 3-  
345 D ray-tracing scheme which accurately calculates travel times and ray-paths. More details about  
346 the method can be found in Zhao et al. (1992, 1994, 2012).

347 The eastern Turkey data set comprises 31730 P-wave and 29320 S-wave arrival times  
348 generated by 7380 seismic events recorded at 39 seismic stations distributed relatively uniformly  
349 in the study area (Salah et al. 2011). Analysis of the ray-path coverage (both in plan and vertical  
350 views) with results of the checkerboard resolution tests and hit count rates all imply that the  
351 obtained velocity anomalies are reliable to a depth of 45 km (Salah et al. 2011). Seismic wave  
352 velocities and Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ) along the selected three cross-sections are shown in Figure 6.

## 353 **Results**

354 All of the measured dikes are essentially planar with no significant elliptical geometry,  
355 particularly in terms of variations in thickness along the length. Therefore, thickness and length  
356 measurements were performed together. We here follow the chemical analysis of Buket and Temel  
357 (1998); Hubert-Ferrari et al. (2009) and Pearce et al. (1990) for definition of dikes at Turnadağ,  
358 Varto and Özenç volcanoes, respectively.

### 359 *Turnadağ volcano*

360 Of the 21 dikes measured at the three volcanoes, seven dikes were observed and measured  
361 at the Turnadağ volcano. These dikes display NE–SW-orientation, with azimuths ranging from  
362 65° to 81° and a mean of 70° (Fig. 2b). The general strike of the dikes indicates a stress field with  
363  $\sigma_3$  in the NW–SE direction which is subparallel with the recent direction of movement of the  
364 Anatolian block.

### 365 *Varto volcano*

366 Dikes at Varto are primarily trachy-basaltic and, more rarely, dacitic (Fig. 2d). The six  
367 dikes measured at Varto display WNW–ESE orientations with only one dike striking NE–SW  
368 (Figs. 3a, b). The dikes have a mean strike of 282° but vary between 300° and 205° (Fig. 1b).

369 Based on Ar-Ar dating, the dikes have ages ranging from ~0.4 to 0.7 Ma (Hubert-Ferrari et al.  
370 2009). In the Varto caldera, however, the range is much greater between 3.6 and 0.46 Ma (Pearce  
371 et al. 1990; Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009). Bimodal or polymodal distribution patterns within the  
372 caldera indicate the existence of different local stress fields and resulting dike/sheet swarms (Fig.  
373 2e). We recorded (unpublished data) four distinct ignimbrite deposits that reveal the sustained  
374 eruption history of the caldera onset event. On the northeastern slopes of the volcano the ignimbrite  
375 thickens progressively westwards. Varto's explosive products include widespread, intensely-  
376 welded, ignimbrites and lithic breccias (Figs. 2a and 4). The welded ignimbrites include two that  
377 are rheomorphic and are concentrated around the western part of the Varto caldera (Fig. 2a).  
378 Extensive welded and non-welded ignimbrites outcrop in the northeastern part of this region (in  
379 the Hınıs region, Fig. 1c). We find three concentric ring faults related to the Varto caldera, cutting  
380 the outermost caldera rim, the mega-breccias which are likely associated to roof collapse and post-  
381 caldera lava flows inside the caldera (Fig. 4). Varto has, therefore, a nested caldera.

#### 382 *Özenç volcanic region*

383 The dikes in the Özenç volcanic region fed effusive-type eruptions mostly of the alkaline  
384 and, rarely, sub-alkaline magmas, including basaltic trachy-andesite and basaltic andesite (Buket  
385 and Temel 1998; Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009). We measured seven dikes in the Özenç volcanic  
386 region (Fig. 5). Mostly striking in an E-W direction (with a mean of about 88°; Fig. 1b), suggesting  
387 a controlling stress field with a  $\sigma_3$  in the N-S direction.

#### 388 **Magmatic overpressure and depth of magma source**

389 Using the assumed values for the crust as given in Table 1 and the measured field aspect  
390 ratios (length/thickness or opening) of the dikes (Table 1), Eq. (3) gives magmatic overpressures  
391 ranging from 13 MPa to 31 MPa. Breaking this down by volcano, dike overpressures range  
392 between 13 MPa and 21 MPa at Varto, between 13 MPa and 17 MPa at Turnadağ, and between  
393 26 MPa and 31 MPa at Özenç. The lower (13-21 MPa) values observed at Varto and Turnadağ are  
394 similar to those obtained at many other volcanic provinces that have shallow crustal magma  
395 chambers (e.g. Bower and Woods 1997; Dvorak and Dzurisin 1997; Lipman 1997; Troll et al.  
396 2002; Jellinek and DePaolo 2003; Annen et al. 2008; Acocella 2007; Bistacchi et al. 2012). The  
397 highest values (26-31 MPa) observed in the Özenç volcanic area are similar to those obtained in  
398 deep-seated magma reservoirs in Iceland (Gudmundsson 2000). Generally, the overpressures

399 obtained here are similar to those obtained from dike aspect ratios in other regions (e.g. Geshi et  
400 al. 2010; Gudmundsson 2011; Becerril et al. 2013).

401 The inferred overpressures may be used to estimate the depths of magma source by  
402 combining Eqs. (2) and (3) (after Becerril et al. 2013) to obtain:

$$403 \quad h = \frac{\Delta u E}{2L(1-\nu^2)(\rho_r - \rho_m)g} - \frac{P_e + \sigma_d}{(\rho_r - \rho_m)g} \quad (4)$$

404 this equation can be simplified to (Gudmundsson 1999; Philipp 2012):

$$405 \quad h = \frac{P_o - P_e - \sigma_d}{(\rho_r - \rho_m)g} \quad (5)$$

406 the magma chamber/reservoir can be assumed as being essentially equal to the *in situ* tensile  
407 strength of the host rock at the time of rupture and dike injection (Elshaafi and Gudmundsson  
408 2016). The estimated average  $T_o$  of the upper crust in the Varto-Karlıova region is around 3.5  
409 MPa (Gurocak et al. 2012; Karaoğlu et al. 2016). This value is consistent with the general range  
410 of the *in situ* tensile strengths measured (mostly through hydraulic fracturing testing) as being  
411 between 0.5 and 9 MPa with the most common values being 2-4 MPa (Gudmundsson 2011;  
412 Browning et al. 2015; Elshaafi and Gudmundsson 2017). At the Earth's surface, where the dike is  
413 exposed,  $\sigma_1$  is 0.1 MPa (atmospheric) and  $\sigma_3$  may be in the range 0-2 MPa, so that  $\sigma_d$  is  
414 effectively the *in-situ* tensile stress at failure in the fractured surface layer (Gudmundsson 2011;  
415 Becerril et al. 2013). During rifting episodes the main tensile stress concentration occurs around  
416 the source of the injected dike, where  $\sigma_d$  is limited to the tensile strength of the rock (assuming  
417 that the magma chamber or reservoir is in mechanical equilibrium before the unrest or rifting  
418 episode, as is a reasonable starting assumption (Gudmundsson, 2011). It follows that at shallower  
419 levels (1-3 km), where the dike is exposed today,  $\sigma_d$  may have been very small. Here, we use the  
420 general value of  $\sigma_d$  as 1 MPa. The dikes at Varto and Turnadağ are intermediate in composition  
421 so we use a relatively low average magma density of 2475 kg m<sup>-3</sup> in our models (Murase and  
422 McBirney 1973; Kushiro 1980; Gudmundsson 2011). In contrast, the dikes at Özenç are mostly  
423 basaltic to basaltic-andesite in composition, and so we use a higher estimated average density of  
424 2700 kg m<sup>-3</sup> in our model (Murase and McBirney 1973; Kushiro 1980). These models do not

425 consider the effect of dynamic gas expansion and vesiculation. In fact, field observations of the  
426 dikes suggest that they do not contain many vesicles, and those seen are mostly very small. We  
427 therefore expect the effect of vesiculation on magma density to have been small for these dikes.  
428 This is in agreement with observations of dikes made elsewhere (Walker 1986; Taisne and Jaupart  
429 2011; Pistone et al. 2017). Vesicles in magma (particularly basaltic) are generally small and rare  
430 at depths greater than several hundred metres below the surface at the time of dike emplacement  
431 (Galindo and Gudmundsson 2012; Gudmundsson 2016). Also, measurements in Hawaii suggest  
432 that most of the exsolution of gas in basaltic magmas occurs in the uppermost few hundred metres  
433 of the feeder/conduit (Greenland et al. 1988; Eychenne et al. 2015; Ferguson et al. 2016;  
434 Moussallam et al. 2016). Thus, the expected reduction in magma density due to gas expansion is  
435 unlikely to be of great significance, if at all, except very close to the surface. In addition, the effect  
436 of vesiculation on magma density in terms of driving dike propagation is still not well-constrained  
437 and requires further investigation.

438 The results in Table 1 show the estimated depths to the source chambers/reservoirs of the  
439 dikes in these volcanoes. The depths to the source chambers/reservoirs of the dikes are 2-5 km at  
440 Varto, 2-4 km at Turnadağ, and 26-31 km at Özenç.

#### 441 **Seismic tomography**

442 We use the seismic data to aid the location of magma chambers and determine the geometry  
443 of the plumbing systems feeding the volcanoes in this region. The most prominent feature in the  
444 velocity models (Fig. 6) are the low-velocity zones or regions coinciding with the locations of the  
445 three volcanoes discussed here. Low to moderate seismic velocities and high Poisson's ratios are  
446 found in the crust beneath all of the volcanoes (Fig. 6). Prominent low P-wave and S-wave  
447 velocities are clearly seen at depths of 25 km along the three cross sections (two E-W, and one N-  
448 S, Fig. 6). Some of these low-velocity zones, originating in the lower crust, extend upwards to  
449 shallower crustal depths (Fig. 6). High Poisson's ratio anomalies are also visible at shallow depths.  
450 However, the lower-middle crustal depths are characterized by low or average values of Poisson's  
451 ratio. The high Poisson's ratios throughout the imaged zones suggest the existence of both  
452 comparatively shallow magma chambers (<10 km depth) and also deeper magma reservoirs (10-  
453 40 km depth) in the southern part of the KTJ. The tomographic images also suggest the existence  
454 of magma reservoirs at depths below 10 km in the Turnadağ and magma reservoirs between 15  
455 and 40 km in the Özenç region. The tomography results are broadly consistent with the analytical

456 results obtained from field measurements of dikes erupted 0.5-3 Ma ago, and support the existence  
457 of a deep and long-lived magma reservoir.

458 The seismic velocity models show that while the three volcanic centers share a similar  
459 active deep magma reservoir, characterized by a prominent low seismic velocity, there are also  
460 some small-scale bodies likely comprising lava domes, intrusions, and diapiric injections through  
461 the upper crust, surrounded by higher-seismic-velocity zones (Fig. 6). The magma reservoirs  
462 extend between 10 and 30 km in depth and 80–85 km in width, and are oriented in a NNW–SSE-  
463 elongated tabular form (sill-like shape) (Fig. 6). A very prominent dome-shaped injection extends  
464 upward from the lower level of the crust in an E–W oriented profile (Fig. 6a). Below Özenç, a less  
465 distinctive low velocity zone is observed trending in an E-W direction as shown in the B-B' profile  
466 of Figure 6b. In the E-W trending A-A' profile (Fig. 6a), we note that the diapiric-shaped dike  
467 injection which appears to feed the main vent of Varto is not aligned below the main volcanic  
468 center but instead displaced by 34 km to the east. It seems that there is no shallow or diapiric-  
469 shaped magma source below Turnadağ according to the  $V_p$  model. However, the  $V_s$  model  
470 indicates a 40 km displacement of magma chamber to the east in accordance with the migration  
471 direction of Varto (Fig. 6b).

## 472 **Discussion**

473 Using well-established analytical results from fracture mechanics (Sneddon and  
474 Lowengrub 1969) which have been widely applied to human-made hydraulic fractures (Valko and  
475 Economides 1995; Yew 1997) as well as to natural hydrofractures such as mineral veins  
476 (Gudmundsson 1999; Philipp 2012; Kusumoto et al. 2013) and dikes (Gudmundsson 1983; Geshi  
477 et al. 2010; Becerril et al. 2013), we use aspect ratios of dikes in the Karlıova region of eastern  
478 Turkey to interpret the depth to their magma sources. We compare the depth estimates from the  
479 dike aspect ratios to those obtained from seismic tomography imaging. The results are in general  
480 harmony and indicate that the Karlıova region hosts three distinct magma source regions (Figs. 6  
481 and 7). Our results indicate also that the spatial relationship of dikes have not changed substantially  
482 over the lifetime of the volcanoes, suggesting that the magma chambers have remained with similar  
483 geometries during this time, which is in agreement with magma-chamber studies elsewhere (e.g.  
484 Pinel and Jaupart 2004; Annen et al. 2008; Becerril et al. 2013).

485 Two factors, the dike opening (thickness) and length of the dikes, are very important to  
486 estimate the overpressure and depth to the source chamber. There are a few studies which attempt  
487 to estimate the depths of magma by using dike thickness and length measurements (e.g.  
488 [Gudmundsson, 1983](#); [Becerril et al. 2013](#); [Elshaafi and Gudmundsson 2016](#)). In this study, the  
489 results are compared with estimated overpressures, obtained from the aspect ratio of dikes exposed  
490 at the surface across two volcanic regions which have quite different tectonic settings. The first  
491 setting is characterized by Quaternary volcanic activity which is likely related to hotspot volcanism  
492 close to the passive continental margin of El Hierro-Canaria Islands studied by [Carracedo et al.](#)  
493 [\(1998\)](#). The second setting is the Pliocene-Pleistocene Al Haruj, Libya, volcanic province  
494 (AHVP), which is considered to be a typical intra-plate volcanic setting and has been linked to the  
495 tectonic evolution of the rifting of the Sirt Basin as described by [Elshaafi and Gudmundsson](#)  
496 [\(2016\)](#). In Figure 8 we plot the aspect of thickness ( $\Delta u_1$ ) to length (L) ratio of the measured dikes  
497 against the calculated magma overpressures, measured at El Hierro (as described by [Becerril et al,](#)  
498 [2013](#)), Varto-Karlıova (this study) and Al Haruj (as described by [Elshaafi and Gudmundsson,](#)  
499 [2016](#)). In total, the six dike measurements from El Hierro gave a range of overpressures between  
500 11-18 MPa, and it was estimated that these dikes were sourced from at a depth of 8-15 km ([Becerril](#)  
501 [et al. 2013](#)). A total of 47 dike measurements were made at Al Haruj which showed a similar quasi-  
502 exponential trend to the volcanic regions of both El Hierro and Karlıova, but it is notable that the  
503 magmatic overpressure values are substantially larger (Fig. 8). The  $\Delta u_1/L$  ratio values in the Al  
504 Haruj volcanic area (10-37 MPa) are also larger compared to the other volcanic areas. The dike  
505 measurements from the three volcanic provinces with different tectonic settings show that the  
506 resulting analytical data do not vary significantly between the depths of the magma chambers and  
507 the calculated magma overpressures (Fig. 8). The magma overpressure and depth values obtained  
508 from the volcanic region of Varto-Karlıova which has been controlled in an inversion tectonic  
509 setting from transtensional to compressional during the Quaternary ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)) show  
510 some similarities, particularly with the El Hierro-Canaria Island volcano. Deeper magma  
511 reservoirs with higher magma overpressures in the Karlıova-Varto region (12-31 MPa magma  
512 overpressure in the Özenç area) exhibit similar trends with the AHVP (10-37 MPa magma  
513 overpressure). These results show the reliability of these analytical calculations and their self-  
514 consistency, and help confirm that magmatic zones have similar dynamic properties throughout  
515 the lithosphere.

516 Varto is the only volcano in the study area which hosts a caldera (Fig. 4). Our results also  
517 indicate that the volcano hosts a shallow magma source at a depth of around 2-5 km below the  
518 surface (Table 1). For the Turnadağ volcano, located on the Anatolian microplate, our results  
519 suggest a shallow magma chamber at 2-4 km depth, that is, of a depth similar to that of the chamber  
520 of the Varto volcano. The magma-chamber-depth results for Turnadağ are supported by high  
521 Poisson's ratio anomalies at similar depths. These shallow chambers, in turn, are presumably fed  
522 with primitive magma from deep reservoirs.

523 Numerical, analog, and field studies indicate that the cross-sectional shape of an underlying  
524 shallow magma chamber in plan view closely resembles that of the associated collapse caldera,  
525 whilst the deeper reservoir may be larger than the volcanic edifices they feed and have no  
526 geometric correlation with the caldera shape (Gudmundsson 2012, 2015; Gerbault 2012; Gregg et  
527 al. 2013; Grosfils 2007; Grosfils et al. 2015; Browning and Gudmundsson 2015). Large volume  
528 intermediate and acidic lavas and pyroclastics erupted from stratovolcanoes, particularly caldera-  
529 forming volcanoes, most likely require a shallow magma chamber fed by a deeper reservoir (e.g.  
530 Ofeigsson et al. 2011; Gudmundsson 2012, 2015; Karaoğlu et al. 2017a). For the Varto volcano,  
531 caldera diameter and depth are almost identical to that of the Nemrut caldera (Karaoğlu et al. 2005),  
532 which has produced up to 64 km<sup>3</sup> of ignimbrite from the successive eruptions (Karaoğlu et al.  
533 2005). When taken together, the felsic rock composition large volume ignimbrites and caldera  
534 formation indicate that Varto was likely fed from a shallow chamber. The subsidence of some  
535 caldera floors exceeds 2 km (Gudmundsson 2015, 2016). Subsidence of a caldera block along ring  
536 faults and gas-rich magma played an important role in keeping excess magmatic pressure  
537 sufficiently high for a much longer period of time in order to squeeze a higher volume of magma  
538 than 'normal' eruptions of the Turnadağ and Özenç volcanoes (cf. Gudmundsson 2015, 2016). The  
539 eruptive volume of 'normal' eruptions can commonly be considered of the order of 0.1% of the  
540 bulk volume of a chamber/reservoir (Browning et al. 2015; Gudmundsson 2016). We thus assume  
541 that the eruptive material associated with a collapse caldera is likely many orders of magnitude  
542 greater than generated in 'normal' eruptions.

543 Özenç has erupted primarily mafic lavas, mostly of the alkaline and, rarely, sub-alkaline  
544 series, generating basaltic trachy-andesite and basaltic andesite lavas and dikes (Fig. 5) (Buket and  
545 Temel 1998; Hubert-Ferrari et al. 2009). The dike segments and volcanic fissures have on average  
546 higher ratio of length (270 m) to thickness (3 m) than in the other two volcanoes (Figs 3, 4, Table

547 1). The thickness/length ratios of dikes in the study area and in the AHVP, for comparison, is  
548 inversely proportional to magmatic overpressure. It is important to note that both volcanic  
549 provinces have similar statistical relationships although there is a variation in the ratio values (Fig.  
550 3). Our calculations indicate that the dikes were generated by a higher magma overpressure and  
551 therefore formed from a deeper magma storage system at around 26-31 km depth. We assume that  
552 these dikes were fed directly from this deep source rather than through a shallow magma system.

553 The seismic tomography data coupled with our field measurements suggest that the deep  
554 reservoir may have migrated laterally over 23-40 km following the formation of the volcano over  
555 the past 3 Ma. The movement vector of the Anatolian plate based on GPS data of [Reilinger et al.](#)  
556 [\(2006\)](#) corresponds to an axis of principal stress between 23 km and 40 km (Fig. 6). However, the  
557 lack of data concerning the petrology, specifically pressure-temperature (PT) calculations for the  
558 volcanic products in the Karlıova-Varto volcanic province, makes further analysis challenging.  
559 We therefore encourage a systematic field survey which would greatly improve the understanding  
560 of this volcanism. We recommend further research into this volcanic province in order to better  
561 understand the particularly deep-source-fed magma plumbing mechanism.

562 We regard the first two depth values of Varto and Turnadağ as very robust, while the depth  
563 to the source for the Özenç dikes is less certain. The depths to the chambers of Varto and Turnadağ  
564 are very similar to those obtained by various methods for shallow chambers in other  
565 volcanotectonic areas worldwide ([Gudmundsson 2006](#); [Chaussard and Amelung 2014](#)), whereas  
566 the source at Özenç would be regarded as a deep-seated reservoir by [Gudmundsson \(2006\)](#) and  
567 similar in depth to the basaltic volcanic field of AHVP in central Libya as studied by [Elshaafi and](#)  
568 [Gudmundsson \(2016, 2017b\)](#).

569 These volcanoes formed through an intensely deformed lithosphere and mainly erupted  
570 calc-alkalic andesite and basalt products ([Karaoğlu et al. 2017b](#)) indicating that the crust has been  
571 sufficiently heated to generate partial melts. The evidence of the heated-crust is documented by  
572 the study of [Italiano et al. \(2013\)](#).

573 In none of the tomographic profiles is the volcano located directly over the centre of the  
574 large deeper reservoir (Fig. 6). This suggests that either (1) the reservoir has migrated laterally  
575 since the initiation of these volcanoes during the past 3 Ma, or (2) tilting of the pile of lavas and  
576 pyroclastics that constitute the crust results in dike paths being somewhat inclined, resulting in the  
577 source being to one side of the volcano. The profiles show ~34 and 40 km in right lateral

578 displacement (to the east) below Varto and Turnadağ, respectively, and a 23 km left lateral  
579 migration (to the west) for Özenç (Fig. 6a-b). This migration can be explained by wedge extrusion  
580 tectonics of the Anatolian block to the west through the NAFZ and VFZ since 6 Ma (Fig. 1c). It  
581 seems that the Turnadağ and Varto volcanic edifices might be displaced to the west (Karaoğlu et  
582 al. 2017b), whereas the magma chambers may have reacted in a completely opposite direction to  
583 this movement of the crust showing plastic deformation. The Özenç volcanic region does not  
584 exhibit the same mechanism of movement as Varto and Turnadağ due to its position outside this  
585 laterally moving crust (Figs. 1c and 7).

586 Our results are consistent with a region of high temperatures and partial melt in the crust  
587 underneath Varto caldera. A significant amount of melt must be generated below Varto caldera  
588 during times of caldera-related and voluminous ignimbrite and tuff deposition (e.g. Aldiss and  
589 Ghazali 1984; Stankiewicz et al. 2010; Karaoğlu et al. 2016). Similarly low P-wave velocity  
590 anomalies, to those observed in this study, have also been recorded beneath Toba caldera in  
591 Indonesia (Stankiewicz et al. 2010); Yellowstone caldera in North America (Stachnik et al. 2008)  
592 and the Altiplano-Puna volcanic zone in the Chilean magmatic arc (Graeber and Asch  
593 1999; Haberland and Rietbrock 2001), and also likely indicate regions of high temperature and  
594 partial melt.

## 595 **Conclusions**

596 Our field observations and analytical results indicate the presence of shallow magma  
597 chambers beneath the volcanoes of Varto and Turnadağ at depths of 2-5 km. In contrast, we obtain  
598 a deeper magma system located between 22 to 27 km below the Özenç volcanic province (Fig. 5).  
599 Seismic tomography images support the existence of magma chambers at depths between 3-10 km  
600 below the areas hosting Turnadağ and Varto. The tomographic imaging technique also points to a  
601 deep magma reservoir residing between 15 km and 30 km in the Özenç region. The images indicate  
602 that the magma reservoir is laterally continuous for more than 40 km. These new estimates of  
603 magma-chamber/reservoir depths are in close agreement with previous findings from finite  
604 element modelling numerical analysis (Karaoğlu et al. 2016).

605 We also use feeder-dike aspect ratios to calculate magmatic overpressures during dike  
606 emplacement in these three volcanoes. They indicate overpressures ranging from 13 to 21 MPa in

607 Varto, from 13 to 17 MPa in Turnadağ, and from 26 to 31 MPa in Özenç. These results seem  
608 reasonable as the lower (13-21 MPa) overpressure values observed in Varto and Turnadağ are  
609 similar to those obtained in many other volcanic provinces that have shallow crustal magma  
610 chambers (Gudmundsson 1983; Becerril et al. 2013; Browning et al. 2015). The highest values  
611 (26-30 MPa) are similar to those obtained for dikes injected from deep-seated magma reservoirs  
612 in Iceland and Libya (Gudmundsson 2000; Elshaafi and Gudmundsson 2016).

613 The results of seismic tomography broadly support the analytical solutions and suggest that  
614 magma may have migrated to a shallower level during the Quaternary at the time of dike  
615 emplacement. This lateral movement of the magma reservoirs, especially throughout the  
616 lithosphere, is of great importance in understanding how magma moves in the brittle-upper crust  
617 whilst being subjected to lithospheric deformations such as extrusion tectonics and block rotations.

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1040 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

1041 **Fig. 1.** a) Tectonic map of Turkey; b) rose diagram showing the distribution and abundance of  
1042 dikes in the research area; c) DEM (compiled from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission)-  
1043 derived map showing the locations of the measured dikes (black lines). NAF: North Anatolian  
1044 Fault, EAF: Eastern Anatolian Fault, KTJ: Karlıova Triple Junction, VFZ: Varto Fault Zone, CF:  
1045 Çaldıran Fault.

1046 **Fig. 2.** a) Location of dikes at the three volcanoes (Vc: Varto caldera; Tv: Turnadağ volcano; Öv:  
1047 Özenç volcano); b) a dike at Turnadağ volcano with the dike dimensions annotated (length = strike  
1048 dimension; depth = dip dimension; thickness = opening); c) examples of fingers from  
1049 dikes/dikelets between the Karlıova and Turnadağ volcanoes; d) Satellite imagery (adapted from  
1050 Map Data: DigitalGlobe) showing the Varto caldera, 8 km in diameter, and the location of Figure  
1051 2e which is marked by a yellow box; e) a dike in the Varto caldera, indicated by a red dashed  
1052 curve.

1053 **Fig. 3.** a-b) Dikes as seen in the western caldera wall of the Varto volcano.

1054 **Fig. 4.** The main structures of Varto caldera projected on a Map Data: DigitalGlobe image. The  
1055 structures include the main ring fault (caldera rim) as well as two smaller but concentric ring faults,  
1056 making the caldera nested.

1057 **Fig. 5.** a) Map Data: DigitalGlobe of dikes at Özenç volcanic area; b, c, and d) are images of dikes  
1058 and volcanic fissures at the Özenç volcanic area.

1059 **Fig. 6.** Two E-W (a;b) and one N-S (c), vertical cross sections of P-wave ( $V_p$ ), S-wave ( $V_s$ ), and  
1060 Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ) structures beneath the Varto caldera, Turnadağ volcano and Özenç volcano  
1061 areas at Karlıova, Eastern Turkey. High  $V_p$  and  $V_s$  values and low  $\nu$  values are shown in blue;  
1062 whereas  $V_p$  and  $V_s$  values and high  $\nu$  values are shown in red. The color scale of velocities ranges  
1063 from -3 to 5% (in part a); from -4 to 4% (in part b), and from -3 to 4% (in part c). The small circles  
1064 and large stars denote background and moderate/large seismic events, respectively, in a 30-km-  
1065 wide zone around each profile.

1066 **Fig. 7.** Schematic cartoon indicating a possible configuration of magma chambers, reservoirs, and  
1067 dikes in relation to faults in the volcanic province of the Karlıova region, Eastern Turkey. VFZ:  
1068 Varto Fault Zone; NAFZ: North Anatolian Fault Zone, EAFZ: Eastern Anatolian Fault Zone.

1069 **Fig. 8.** Aspect ratio of thickness ( $\Delta u_1$ ) to length ( $L$ ) of the measured dikes against the calculated  
1070 magma overpressures, measured at El Hierro, Canaria Islands (2\*: Becerril et al. 2013), Varto-  
1071 Karlıova, Turkey and Al Haruj, Libya (3\*\*): Elshaafi and Gudmundsson 2017b)

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1073 **Table 1:** Dike parameter values for Varto caldera, Turnadağ volcano and Özenç volcanic areas.  
1074 The columns are as follows: thickness of the dike ( $\Delta u_1$ ), calculated magma overpressure in the  
1075 dike ( $p_o$ ), along strike length of the dike ( $L$ ), the average density of the magma in the dike ( $\rho_m$ ),  
1076 calculated depth of origin of the dike ( $h$ ), and strike of the dike. Some constant values are used as

1077 follows: Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$ ) is 0.25, Young's modulus of the host rock ( $E$ ) is 5 GPa, the average  
1078 density of the host rock ( $\rho_r$ ) is  $2800 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ , internal excess magmatic pressure in the chamber (  
1079  $p_e$ ) is 3.5 MPa, acceleration due to gravity ( $g$ ) is 9.81, and the differential stress ( $\sigma_d$ ) is 1 MPa.