

MUD VOLCANISM AS MODEL FOR VARIOUS PLANETARY SURFACE PROCESSES. B. Bradak¹, A. Kereszturi²,
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Introduction: In this work we review our current knowledge on the two basic kinds of mud volcanism on Earth and their possible application to planetary environments. Mud volcanic processes differs from magmatic volcanism but realize under such physical factors which are present in many planetary bodies.

Mud volcanism on the Earth: On the Earth we define two basic types of mud volcanism: the “macro scale” related to subduction zones and the “mezo or micro” scale related to local tectonic processes on far smaller scale (Fig. 1.) [1, 2]. The “macro scale” submarine giant blueschist mud volcanoes around subduction zones and resulted from the diapiric rise of the quasi liquid or plastic matters released by the tectonic compression. Because of the relative “low” temperature they are not connected with regular magmatism. The mezo or micro scale mud volcanism arises from compression in continental crust at anticlines structures are associated with water, CH, and/or other gas phases [3].

Possible planetary analogies: Because of the tectonically compressed environment where gas and liquid release cause the diapiric rise of “mud” bodies without extremely high temperature, these are good models for several processes on the following planetary bodies: 1. Volcano build up by low viscosity lavas on Venus (the high atmospheric pressure inhibits the eruptive outburst of venusian lavas based on some theories. The effusive release of lavas can be compared to tectonically released “mud-magma” bodies. 2. Subsurface water-clathrate decomposition can drive break up of liquified matters on Mars although this process does not taken account as regular volcanism. The plasticity of the fluidized debris and the H₂O and CO₂ release can be compared to the plastic mud bodies with gas phase CHs connected to them. Another group of possible analogies from Mars are the periglacial pingo-like and cryovolcanic-like structures.

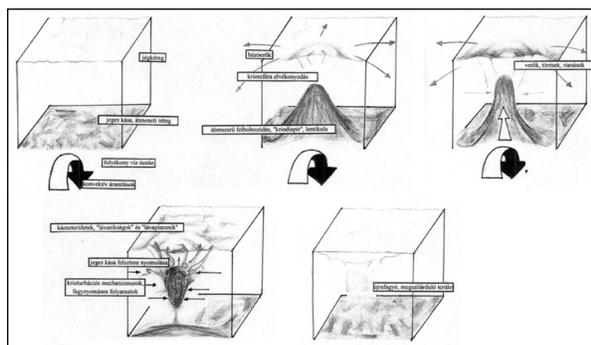


Fig. 2.: Theory of cryomagmatic intrusions and related tectonic structures on icy moons

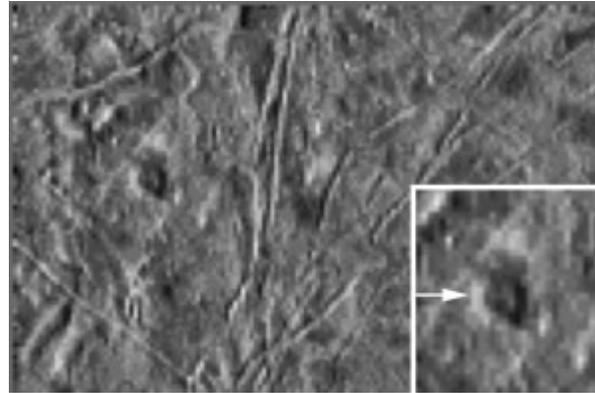


Fig. 3. Possible cryovolcanic dome on Europa

3. The pseudovolcanic cones on Mars possibly related to phreatic outburst. In this case the plasticity of the “magma and lava” matters can be an analogy. 4. There are some possible cryo-like volcanoes on Mars where “cryoslurry” can be the base of the analogy. 5. Cryovolcanism on icy moons and diapiric model for the origin of the chaotic terrains on Europa (Fig. 2, 3.), 6. Origin of cantaloupe terrain and possible connection of explosive volcanism with insolation on Triton.

Laboratory tests: We made experiments with various frozen mixtures of waterice, mud clasts and CO₂ gas simulating the reaction of clathrates with solid mud particle contamination. We measured the reaction of these under mechanical pressure and inflexion. Based on the already realized tests we experienced fluidification, effusion of “cryoslurry” from samples and the variations of the reactions to the same stresses according to the gas and solid contamination (Fig. 4.).

Conclusion: We already know that some aspects and versions of the mud volcanism can be interpreted as other kind of processes like cryoturbation, phreatic outburst. But based on the physical processes involved in mud volcanism we can analyse with the same model many processes as different realizations of mud volcanism. Now we are working with laboratory experiments for the analysis of various waterice, gas and solid particle mixtures for the analysis of them under different physical environments.

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	Mezo- and macrotectonic mud volcanoes	Global tectonic mud volcanoes
Tectonic setting	passive margin, sinking environment, anticlyne fold formed by tectonic motion	between subduction zones and volcanic arcs
Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ liquid, gas CH release; ◦ diapiric rise; ◦ tectonic pressure; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ low T, high P fluidization of serpentine and sediments; ◦ diapiric rise; ◦ tectonic pressure;
Origin of volcanic matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ tectonically and CH driven hydrothermally brecciated mud, ◦ melange of sediments and diapir origin; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ in situ metamorphized matters serpentine; ◦ melange of tectonic and diapir origin
Out-break	at fault zones	at fault zones
Mud volcanite	brecciated, unsorted mud and clasts changeable viscosity	mud, clast,serpentine,
Morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ heigh: 0 – 500 m ; ◦ diameter: ~1m - ~2km; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ heigh: ~ 2 km ; ◦ diameter: ~ 30 km.;
Volcanic morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ mud flows; ◦ volcanic mud breccia dispersion; ◦ CH gas and oil eruption; ◦ slope-slide, land- slide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ land – slide; ◦ fissures (meter deep); ◦ serpentine mud flows;
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ aerial; ◦ marine:-mud volcanic island ◦ submarine reef and volcanoes 	below sea level
Example	<i>Piparo (Trinidad), mud volcanoes of the Azerbaijan region (Dashgil, Lokbatan), mud volcanoes on Norris Geyser Basin (Yellowstone National Park), Waimata Valley mud volcano (New Zeland),</i>	mud volcanoes at Mariana trench: <i>Conical Seamount, South Chamorro Seamount,</i>

Fig. 1. Possible classification of mud volcanoes

References: [1] Fryer P., Wheat C.G.,Mottl M.J (1999) Mariana blueschist mud volcanism: Implication for conditions within the subduction zone, *Geology*, Vol. .27, no.2, p. 103-106. [2] P.Fryer, T.Clifford (1999) Blueschist mud volcanism in the Mariana-forearc; sampling the subducted slab, Geological Society of America, 1999 annual meeting, Abstracts with Programs, Geological Society of America 31, p. 103. [3] László Csontos (1998) *Sótektonika, Szerkezeti földtan*, ELTE Eötvös Kiadó, Budapest

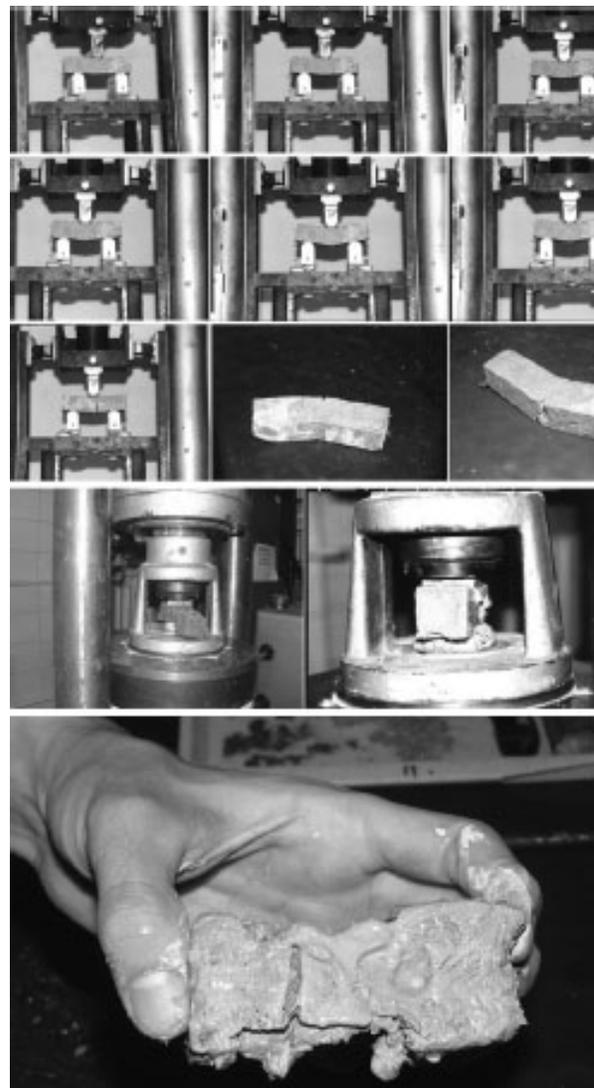


Fig. 4. Some images of the laboratory tests (flexure (top), compression (middle) and the result (bottom))