

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 (σ_1) in the N—S direction and a minimum principal stress (σ_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_c) 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 σ_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 σ_1 and the intermediate principal (σ_2) stresses are
232 in the plane of the dike, whereas the minimum principal compressive stress (σ_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 σ_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 ρ_r is the average density of the host rock, ρ_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 σ_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 kg m^{-3}) is generally less than the average density of the upper
260 crust in eastern Turkey (2800 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 ν is the Poisson ratio, and E is the Young's modulus of the host rock, Δu 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⁻³ (Gudmundsson 2011). Here we use an average
307 crustal density of 2800 kg m⁻³ 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 (ν) 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 (ν) 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 σ_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 σ_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, σ_1 is 0.1 MPa (atmospheric) and σ_3 may be in the range 0-2 MPa, so that σ_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 σ_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, σ_d may have been very small. Here, we use the
420 general value of σ_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⁻³ 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⁻³ 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 (Δu_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 km³ 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 (ν) 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 ν values are shown in blue;
1062 whereas V_p and V_s values and high ν 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 (Δu_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 (Δu_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 (ρ_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 (ν) is 0.25, Young's modulus of the host rock (E) is 5 GPa, the average
1078 density of the host rock (ρ_r) is 2800 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 (σ_d) is 1 MPa.