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The Magnitude of the 39.8 ka Campanian Ignimbrite Eruption, Italy: Method, Uncertainties and Errors

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The calculation of the magnitude of an eruption needs the accurate estimate of its deposit volume. This is particularly critical for ignimbrites as no methods for their volume calculations and associated errors and uncertainties are consolidated in the literature, although invariably the largest magnitude eruptions on Earth are made of ignimbrites. The 39.8 ka Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) eruption is the largest of the Campi Flegrei caldera (Italy). The global cooling following the CI eruption and its widespread tephra affected the paleoenvironment and the migration of hominids in Europe at that time. Despite the large number of studies, the estimates of the Dense Rock Equivalent volume of the CI range between 60 and 300 km^3, because of the lack of clear and reproducible methods for its calculation. Here we present a new calculation of the volume of the CI, grounded on a clear and reproducible method that can be applied universally and which provides an accurate estimation of the volume of the deposits on ground and their uncertainties and errors, allowing a strong base for further estimates of the amount of deposits eroded, covered, elutriated, which are essential for the final computation of the eruption magnitude. In order to calculate the CI volume, we reconstructed the first total isopach map of the pyroclastic density current deposit preserved on land, developed through a method that reconstructs the paleo-topography during the eruption, which is reproducible for all topographically controlled ignimbrites and allows the calculation of well-defined uncertainties in the on-land ignimbrite deposits. The preserved total extra-caldera bulk volume of the ignimbrite is estimated at 68.2 ± 6.6 km^3. The total pyroclastic density current deposit volume is then corrected for erosion, ash elutriation, the intracaldera deposit volume, and the volume of tephra deposited in the sea, whereas volumes of the basal fallout deposits are taken from other studies. The total Dense Rock Equivalent volume of the eruption is 181–265 km^3, whose range accounts for errors and uncertainties. This value corresponds to a mass of 4.7–6.9 × 10^{14} kg, a magnitude (M) of 7.7–7.8 and a volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) of 7.

Keywords: Campanian Ignimbrite, Campi Flegrei, isopach maps, ignimbrite volumes, pyroclastic density currents, super-eruption

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INTRODUCTION

Pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) have large impacts on human communities and the environment; they can cause catastrophic environmental and property damage and loss of life, as well as accounting for a large proportion of deaths caused by direct volcanic activity. From 1500 to 2017 CE, 28% of volcano-induced mortality resulted from PDCs, second only to famine and epidemic disease (Auker et al., 2013 and references therein; Brown et al., 2017). Moreover, global and regional climatic effects can result from the injection of ash and sulfur aerosols into the stratosphere during large explosive eruptions, leading to a "volcanic winter" (Rampino and Self, 1992; Stuiver et al., 1995; Thordarson and Self, 1996; Robock, 2000). The quantitative computation of the size of explosive eruptions is essential to understand their potential impact on humans, climate and ecosystems (e.g., Mason et al., 2004). Calculating the volume of large volcanic eruptions is in fact necessary to define their size (e.g., Newhall and Self, 1982; Pyle, 2000; Crosweller et al., 2012; Pyle, 2015) and to model the climate effects of these natural phenomena that occurred in the past.

Caldera-forming eruptions produce both fall deposits and ignimbrites (Parfitt and Wilson, 2008), and typically the largest proportion of volcanic material is transported in PDCs and emplaced as ignimbrites (e.g., the Oruanui eruption; Wilson, 1991; the Otowi Member of the Bandelier Tuff; Cook et al., 2016). The tephra fall deposits are analyzed through field and statistical techniques to make isopach maps directly from thickness data (e.g., Walker and Croasdale, 1970; Walker, 1973; Rhoades et al., 2002; Burden et al., 2013; Engwell et al., 2015; Yang and Bursik, 2016; Cutler et al., 2020), from which numerical models can be used to calculate total volumes (Bonadonna et al., 1998; Bonadonna and Phillips, 2003; Bonadonna and Houghton, 2005; Folch et al., 2010; Costa et al., 2012; Folch, 2012). The resulting tephra volumes appear to be better constrained than ignimbrite volumes, where a clear "reference" method does not exist and uncertainties on such computations are significant (Mason et al., 2004).

Calculation of the volume of ignimbrites has been the subject of numerous studies (Walker, 1983; Aldiss and Ghazali, 1984; Henry and Price, 1984; Morgan et al., 1984; Ratté et al., 1984; Sparks et al., 1985; Scott et al., 1996; Wilson, 2001; Pérez et al., 2006; Giordano, 2010; Folkes et al., 2011; Best et al., 2013a; Best et al., 2013b; Cook et al., 2016; Pacheco-Hoyos et al., 2018; Takarada and Hoshizumi, 2020), but it remains difficult to evaluate due to the irregularity of the ignimbrite surface, the variable thickness (controlled by the paleotopography; e.g., Yokoyama, 1974; Wilson 1991; Broxton and Reneau, 1996; Daag and van Westen, 1996), the effect of erosion (e.g., Yokoyama, 1985), the presence of overlying deposits, the intracaldera deposits (e.g., Willcock et al., 2013) and the variable density of the deposits. The eruptive volume, and as a consequence the ignimbrite volume, is essential for computation of the magnitude (M; Pyle, 2000) and Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI; Newhall and Self, 1982) of an eruption. The calculation of the volume of ignimbrites, which form the main part of eruptions with $M > 5$, remains one of the outstanding issues in volcanology [e.g., the collapse caldera database (CCDB) project, Geyer and Martí, 2008; the LAMEVE project, Crosweller et al., 2012].

The lack of a standardized accurate method for the calculation of ignimbrite volumes makes most of the existing figures for large-volume ignimbrites poorly constrained and, in many cases, unreproducible, resulting in a wide range of estimated volumes of the same ignimbrite [e.g., Cerro Galán, Folkes et al., 2011; Campanian Ignimbrite (CI), Scarpati et al., 2014]. The case study for this work is the CI (Barberi et al., 1978; Fisher et al., 1993; De Vivo et al., 2001; Fedele et al., 2008), associated with the most powerful caldera-forming eruption from the Campi Flegrei (CF) caldera (**Figure 1A**) (Rosi and Sbrana, 1987; Perrotta et al., 2006; Scarpati et al., 2013). It is one of the largest late Quaternary explosive events and has been considered as an example of a super-eruption (Sparks et al., 2005). The 39.8 ka CI tephra (Plinian and co-ignimbrite products; Giaccio et al., 2017) represents the most widespread volcanic deposit and one of the most important temporal/stratigraphic markers for the Early Upper Paleolithic of Western Eurasia (Fedele et al., 2003; Pyle et al., 2006; Giaccio et al., 2008). The eruption may have affected human residents in different ways: by destroying the animal and human populations, by altering the species composition and growth rhythm and by changing the availability of water (Fedele et al., 2002; Fedele et al., 2003; Fedele et al., 2007; Lowe et al., 2012). The abrupt volcanic cooling following the eruption produced a regional drop of 6–9°C in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (Black et al., 2015). The cooling could have influenced the migration of the populations and have affected the daily life for Neanderthals and modern humans during the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition (Fedele et al., 2002; Fedele et al., 2003; Black et al., 2015; Marti et al., 2016).

The first part of this work is a review of all articles that calculated the CI volume. In the second part, we present the most reliable method, up to now, to develop an isopach map and calculate the ignimbrite volume. Despite the large number of studies, the estimates of total Dense Rock Equivalent (DRE) volume of the CI eruption range from 60 to 300 km^3 (**Table 1**) (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Rosi et al., 1983; Fisher et al., 1993; Civetta et al., 1997; Rosi et al., 1999; Fedele et al., 2003; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Rolandi et al., 2003; Giaccio, 2006; Marianelli et al., 2006; Pyle et al., 2006; Pappalardo et al., 2008; Costa et al., 2012; Scarpati et al., 2014; Marti et al., 2016). Furthermore, none of these studies provides a solid method to determine the ignimbrite volume in the Apennine mountains. The volume of dispersed tephra (both Plinian and co-ignimbrite) was better defined due to the many measurements across the vast region blanketed by the CI ash and a recent improvement of computational methods (Costa et al., 2012; Marti et al., 2016), as well as by the simpler nature of its mantling deposition. In contrast, the volume of the ignimbrite deposits has never been calculated by accurate direct measurements, but only by approximate thicknesses (Thunell et al., 1979; Fisher et al., 1993; Civetta et al., 1997; Giaccio, 2006). Here, we assess the ignimbrite volume using precise thickness measurements and reporting those on an isopach map. We demonstrate a rigorous method to create a complete isopach map of the CI, with a similar approach to that normally applied to

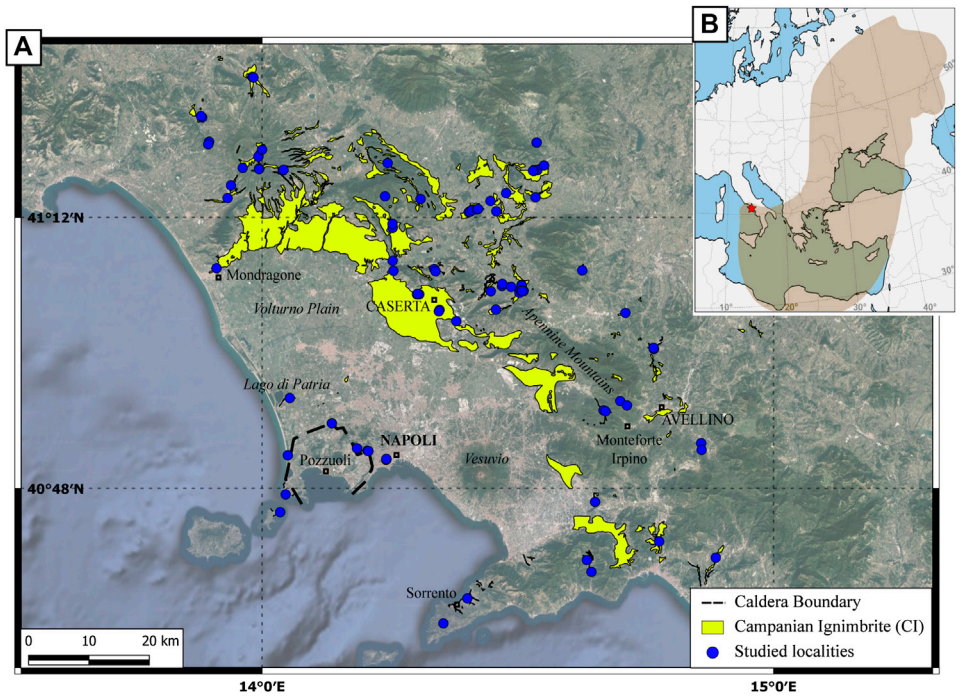


FIGURE 1 | The Campanian Ignimbrite distribution **(A)**. The Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) distribution in the Campanian region (the base map is from Google Satellite), defined merging fieldwork and geological maps (Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1963; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1966; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1967; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1971a; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1971b; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1975; ISPRA, 2009; ISPRA, 2010; ISPRA, 2011a; ISPRA, 2011b; ISPRA, 2011c; ISPRA, 2011d; ISPRA, 2014a; ISPRA, 2014b; ISPRA, 2016; ISPRA, 2018). Blue dots indicate the location of the studied exposures (coordinates are reported in the **Supplementary Material**). **(B)** Dispersal area of the CI tephra from the Campi Flegrei caldera (red star), modified from Giaccio et al. (2017). The maps were generated using the QGIS Open-Source 3.4 (https://www.qgis.org/it/site/).

tephra-fall deposits (e.g., Engwell et al., 2015) and it can be easily used on other ignimbrites in the world. The map is based on the mapping of the preserved ignimbrite deposits, without the fall deposits, and reconstruction of the paleotopography, especially mountainous areas. This allows us to provide an accurate estimate of the volume of the extra-caldera deposits of the CI PDC preserved on land based on a verifiable method of calculation and with the relative uncertainties. Using this as a base, we correct for erosion, elutriation, intracaldera volume, and underwater deposits to calculate the, up to date, most reliable total bulk, and DRE volumes for this ignimbrite. We then estimate the co-ignimbrite volume and add the fallout volume from previous studies to calculate the total erupted volume for the eruption. The obtained eruptive volume significantly reduces the total uncertainty of the total volume calculation and should be used to better design and constrain the eruptive dynamics. Such data, well constrained and evaluated, from many volcanoes could help determine the frequency of eruptions of a given magnitude around the world.

VOLCANOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Volcanic activity in the CF began prior to 80 ka (Pappalardo et al., 1999; Scarpati et al., 2013) and caldera collapses occurred during the eruptions of the CI, the ~15 ka Neapolitan Yellow Tuff (NYT) (Orsi et al., 1996; Perrotta et al., 2006; Acocella, 2008; Vitale and Isaia, 2014) and the 29 ka M 6.6 event Masseria del Monte Tuff correlated to the Y-3 marine tephra (Albert et al., 2019). Post-NYT activity in the caldera is well described by Di Vito et al. (1999), Isaia et al. (2009), and Smith et al. (2011).

The CI eruption emplaced both pyroclastic fall and PDC deposits in a complex sequence currently exposed in proximal, sporadic medial, distal and ultra-distal outcrops (**Figure 1**) (Barberi et al., 1978; Rosi et al., 1988; Fisher et al., 1993; Perrotta and Scarpati, 1994; Orsi et al., 1996; Rosi et al., 1996; Rosi et al., 1999; De Vivo et al., 2001; Cappelletti et al., 2003; Perrotta and Scarpati 2003; Perrotta et al., 2006; Fedele et al., 2008; Engwell et al., 2014; Scarpati et al., 2015a, Scarpati et al., 2015b; Sparice, 2015; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016; Smith et al., 2016). The first phase of the eruption generated Plinian columns up to 44 km high (Rosi et al., 1999; Marti et al., 2016), producing a widespread fall deposit dispersed by winds to the east (Rosi et al., 1999; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Marti et al., 2016; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016). A PDC then spread over an area of 7,000 km^2 and surmounted ridges more than 1,000 m high (Barberi et al., 1978; Fisher et al., 1993). This stage caused the caldera collapse and the accumulation of lithic breccia deposits (Breccia Museo) in scattered outcrops along the caldera rim (Perrotta and Scarpati, 1994; Melluso et al., 1995; Rosi et al., 1996; Fedele et al., 2008). In distal outcrops, most of the CI is

TABLE 1 | Bulk and DRE (*) volume calculations proposed for the CI eruption by different authors. Y-5 refers to those studies that did not identify the co-Plinian and co-ignimbrite contribution. The methods are described in the text. The used density (kg/m^3) is reported bulk or DRE (*), *i*: ignimbrite, *a*: ash, *p*: pumices.

Volume calculations (km^3)							
Plinian fallout	**Co-Plinian ash**	**Pyroclastic density current**	**Co-ignimbrite ash**	**Y-5**	**Total**	**Authors**	**Used density (kg/m^3)**
5.33 (0.88*)	14.67 (6.88*)	–	–	–	–	Scarpati and Perrotta (2016)	1,000 (2,400*)
4	16	–	100	–	–	Perrotta and Scarpati (2003)	–
–	–	54 (25*)	100 (42*)	–	–	Scarpati et al. (2014)	2,600*
–	–	30–40*	–	100 (30–40*)	60–80*	Thunell et al. (1979)	–
15	–	–	–	–	–	Rosi et al. (1999)	–
–	–	–	–	73	>150	Cornell et al. (1983)	–
54 (22.6*)	–	–	153.9 (61.6*)	–	207.9 (84.2*)	Marti et al. (2016)	2,500*
–	–	–	72–120 (31–50*)	–	105–210*	Pyle et al. (2006)	2,400*
25*	–	120*	–	–	145*	Civetta et al. (1997)	–
20*	–	130*	–	–	150*	Marianelli et al. (2006)	–
–	–	–	–	–	200*	Fedele et al. (2003)	~1,250
–	–	180	–	140	320 (200*)	Rolandi et al. (2003)	–
20*	–	180*	–	–	200*	Pappalardo et al. (2008)	Average porosity: 0.58
–	–	–	–	250–300 (104–125*)	430–680 (180–280*)	Costa et al. (2012)	1,000
10 (3*)	–	385 (215*)	–	180 (86*)	575 (300*)	Giaccio (2006)	1,400–2,500 i, 1,200 a, 800 *p*
–	–	500	–	–	–	Fisher et al. (1993)	–

DRE, dense rock equivalent.

represented by a massive, gray ignimbrite (Barberi et al., 1978; Fisher et al., 1993; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2012; Scarpati et al., 2015a). Beyond about 80 km from the vent, deposits are made up of coarse to fine ash containing both co-Plinian and co-ignimbrite tephra (Thunell et al., 1979; Sparks and Huang, 1980; Engwell et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2016). The tephra marker related to this eruption is essential to correlate volcanological and archaeological sites in the Mediterranean area and Eastern Europe. Tephra-based correlations of human sites were used to date the Middle to Upper Paleolithic transition (Giaccio et al., 2008; Lowe et al., 2012; Giaccio et al., 2017).

The complex stratigraphy of this eruption differs between proximal and distal outcrops. Moreover, it is difficult to study the lateral correlations due to the absence of outcrops in medial areas (except for the Lago di Patria outcrop, **Supplementary Table S2**), because all quarry-pits have been refilled. The limited drill core data shows little evidence of lateral unit change. In our study, we refer to the stratigraphic units proposed by Fedele et al. (2008) (proximal area) and Cappelletti et al. (2003) (distal areas) (**Online Supplementary Material**). The first flow unit is the Unconsolidated Stratified Ash Flow (USAF) both in proximal and distal stratigraphy, which is followed by the main units of Piperno and Breccia Museo inside the caldera and the Welded Gray Ignimbrite (WGI) and Lithified Yellow Tuff (LYT) in medial and distal outcrops.

ESTIMATING ERUPTION VOLUME

Most studies of eruptive volume focus their attention on the Plinian fallout and the ignimbrite phases of volcanic eruptions, but the total volume calculation is a complex result of many different components. The total volume erupted during a caldera-forming eruption, like the CI, is composed of the mass ejected during the phases that produced Plinian columns (V_{Pcol}), and PDCs (V_{pdc}) **Eq. (1)**:

$$V = V_{Pcol} + V_{pdc} \quad (1)$$

Both V_{Pcol} and V_{pdc} refer to the primary deposits (respectively, the Plinian fallout V_{Pfall}, the proximal pumice lapilli deposit, and the ignimbrite V_{ign}) and their associated co-Plinian fall ($V_{coPfall}$) and co-ignimbrite ash fall (V_{coign}), respectively. Indeed, fine ash suspended in the atmosphere can be co-Plinian rather than co-ignimbrite (Fierstein and Hildreth, 1992). In this work, the co-Plinian ash is defined as the fine-grained Plinian ash, decoupled from the coarser fallout and subject to atmospheric turbulence (Fierstein and Hildreth, 1992). The co-ignimbrite ash is considered to be the buoyant material that rises from the PDC through the entrainment, heating, and expansion of ambient air (Woods and Wohletz, 1991), and may represent the counterpart to the crystal-enriched ignimbrite (Sparks and Walker, 1977). Consequently **Eq. (2)**:

$$V = \left(V_{Pfall} + V_{coPfall}\right) + \left(V_{ign} + V_{coign}\right) \quad (2)$$

The erosion and re-deposition can subsequently modify these components before measurement of the thicknesses occurs. In the

following sections, we discuss different methods used in the past to estimate the CI eruption volume. The CI is not a unique example and those methods have been applied to many eruptions (e.g., Pyle, 1989).

The Previous Estimates of the Campanian Ignimbrite Eruptive Volume

A synopsis of the previously determined estimates of the total volume is provided in **Table 1**.

Due to the difficulty to distinguish the contribution of the co-Plinian fall and the co-ignimbrite ash fall in ultra-distal locations, some authors simply refer to the widespread Y-5 ash layer, which comprises both (**Table 1**) (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Rolandi et al., 2003; Costa et al., 2012). Other previous studies distinguished the co-Plinian and co-ignimbrite contribution (Sparks and Huang, 1980; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Engwell et al., 2014; Marti et al., 2016; Smith et al., 2016), but only some of them calculated the relative volumes (Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Marti et al., 2016).

From Direct Measurements

The first volume estimate of the ignimbrite was presented by Thunell et al. (1979). Based on a geometrical method that considers a covered area of over 6,000 km^2 with a thickness up to 100 m and assuming radial flow of the PDC, they estimated the DRE volume was at least 30–40 km^3. The DRE volume of the Y-5 ash layer within the 1 cm isopach contour was also estimated at 30–40 km^3 (65 km^3 bulk). Their total DRE volume was 60–80 km^3 for the eruption.

Cornell et al. (1983) calculated the ash-fall layer volume of Y-5 from an isopach map derived by different cores drilled in the Mediterranean Sea (73 km^3 bulk). They then included the ignimbrite DRE volume proposed by Thunell et al. (1979) in their overall eruption volume estimate. On the other hand, the bulk volume of the original pyroclastic current deposit was estimated by Fisher et al. (1993) to be about 500 km^3 by circumscribing a circle of deposits with a radius of 100 km, 100 m thick at the center that thinned to zero at the perimeter of the circle, with no consideration of topography.

Rosi et al. (1999) calculated the bulk volume of the Plinian fallout as 15 km^3 based on the method proposed by Pyle (1989); in the CI eruption, the focus of the elliptical isopach distribution corresponds to a central vent located in the CF caldera center (town of Pozzuoli). The authors used thickness values from distal outcrops, up to 64 km from the vent. The same technique was used by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003), who estimated a bulk volume of about 4 km^3, the different value of this work being the result of a different isopach model compared to the one used by Rosi et al. (1999). In the same paper Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) attempted, for the first time, to discriminate between the volumes of the co-Plinian and co-ignimbrite components. The coarse ash of ultra-distal deposits was interpreted as the co-Plinian phase, while the fine ash represents the co-ignimbrite component. The authors evaluated the thicknesses of the two parts and estimated 16 km^3 bulk of co-Plinian ash and 100 km^3 bulk of co-ignimbrite ash.

These analyses were then improved by Pyle et al. (2006), who used ultra-distal thickness values all over Eastern Europe. The authors estimated the minimum bulk volume of the CI fallout at 74 or 31 km^3 DRE (using magma density of 2,400 and 1,000 kg/m^3 bulk deposit density) using Pyle's (1989) general observation that many fallout deposits show exponential decay of thickness. Pyle et al. (2006) compared these results with a second approach based on the rate of thinning of the distal ash sheets (based on Pyle, 1989; Pyle, 1990): given that the thickest ash layer in marine cores is in the order of 10–20 cm, it is most likely that the total bulk ash volume associated with the eruption was in the range 74–120 km^3 (31–50 km^3 DRE) (Pyle et al., 2006). Scarpati and Perrotta (2016) subdivided the fallout into five layers (A to E) on the basis of grain size, component variations and graded bedding. The volumes for each layer were calculated using the exponential fitting method of Pyle (1989), obtaining a primary fallout of about 5 km^3 (~1 km^3 DRE, using a magma density of 2,400 kg/m^3 proposed by Rosi et al., 1999) and a co-Plinian ash of about 15 km^3 (~7 km^3 DRE, using the same magma density as the primary fallout).

A first attempt to collate all the volume estimates was made by Fedele et al. (2003), who considered the sum of the conservative estimates reported in literature (the sum of the fallout, the PDC deposits, and the Y-5 ash layer volumes; Thunell et al., 1979; Civetta et al., 1997; Rosi et al., 1999). The total DRE volume they proposed is 200 km^3, using a bulk deposit density of around 1,250 kg/m^3. Rolandi et al. (2003) proposed the same volume (200 km^3 DRE, 320 km^3 bulk), consisting of 180 km^3 bulk of PDC (150 km^3 in proximal area and 30 km^3 in distal area, obtained by the analysis of seismic data, drill-holes, and considering the areal extent of the deposits) and 140 km^3 bulk of the distal ash (80 km^3 in the Mediterranean Sea and 60 km^3 as ultra-distal tephra, using an isopach map).

A similar value was proposed by Giaccio (2006), 215 km^3 DRE (385 km^3 bulk), who calculated the volume of the PDC using a complex truncated cone, with a concave surface and variable heights: 70 m up to 10 km from the center, 50 m up to 20 km, 20 m up to 45 km, and 0 m up to 100 km. At the same time, he proposed a revised isopach map for the fallout deposits, resulting in a volume estimate of 10 km^3 (3 km^3 DRE). Moreover, combining all available data on the distal tephra of CI from the literature (Cornell et al., 1983; Melekestsev et al., 1984; Paterne et al., 1986; McCoy and Cornell, 1990; Cini Castagnoli et al., 1995; Seymour and Christanis, 1995; Narcisi and Vezzoli, 1999; Ton-That et al., 2001; Upton et al., 2002; Seymour et al., 2004), Giaccio (2006) calculated the volume of the distal fraction as 180 km^3 (86 km^3 DRE) and thus estimated a bulk volume of 575 km^3 (300 km^3 DRE). The DRE volumes were calculated using a bulk density, ranging between 1,400 and 2,500 kg/m^3 for the ignimbrite, 1,200 kg/m^3 for the distal ash and 800 kg/m^3 for the fallout pumices.

From Petrological Data and Numerical Modeling

Civetta et al. (1997) is one of the first works that subdivided the volume of the CI eruption based on the pumices composition. The authors divided the magma into three different types: a most evolved one that consists of Plinian fallout and some ignimbrite up to 50 km from the vent (a volume of 25 km^3 DRE), a magma

with intermediate composition that includes some of the ignimbrite out to its farthest extent (100 km^3 DRE), and a least-evolved magma that includes much of the ignimbrite in the Campanian Plain (20 km^3 DRE). All the volume calculations were made by circumscribing circles with a radius similar to the maximum distance reached from the vent by that magma type and a thickness that goes from the maximum thickness of ignimbrite of that given composition at the caldera center to zero at the perimeter of the circle.

Marianelli et al. (2006) proposed different crystallization depths suggested by the results of CI melt inclusion studies and then estimated the volume of the eruption directly from a magma chamber model, attributing 20 km^3 DRE to the fallout deposits, and 130 km^3 DRE to the ignimbrite. The method was not explained with more details in the article (Marianelli et al., 2006). Pappalardo et al. (2008) used petrological data to constrain the pre-eruptive magma storage dynamics analyzing the different magma compositions for each eruptive phase. In agreement with Civetta et al. (1997), Pappalardo et al. (2008) proposed a total volume of 200 km^3 DRE based on a major and trace element modeling (20 km^3 for the fallout and 180 km^3 for the ignimbrite). The authors used the total porosity of each analyzed sample, which varies between 0.36 and 0.93, with an average of 0.58.

Costa et al. (2012) proposed a new tephra volume estimate based on the fit of an advection – diffusion tephra dispersion model to thickness data (more than 100 ultra-distal locations). They obtained a bulk volume of the tephra of 250–300 km^3 (104–125 km^3 DRE, the model assumes an average bulk deposit density of 1,000 kg/m^3) and a total volume of the eruption of 430–680 km^3 (180–280 km^3 DRE).

Scarpati et al. (2014) estimated the PDC volume applying **Eq. 3** (see below) assuming a co-ignimbrite volume (V_{coign}) of 100 km^3 obtained by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) and a mean vitric loss of 0.65. The method is based on the enrichment factor of Walker (1972); Walker (1980) and the vitric loss of the ignimbrite proposed by Sparks and Walker (1977). The ignimbrite volume (V_{ign}) **Eq. (3)** is equal to:

$$V_{ign} = \frac{V_{coign}}{vitric\ loss} - V_{coign} \quad (3)$$

This method is strongly influenced by the mean value of vitric loss used, which is normally estimated from sporadic point measurements. The bulk volume of the PDC deposits thus estimated is 54 km^3 (25 km^3 DRE, using a density of 2,600 kg/m^3). In the same study, the authors proposed a review of the previous volume estimations (Scarpati et al., 2014).

The most recent work on the fallout volume was presented by Marti et al. (2016). The authors recognized two distinct plume phases: the Plinian (V_{Pcol}) and the co-ignimbrite fall. They applied a computational inversion method that explicitly accounts for the two phases and for gravitational spreading of the umbrella cloud. Dividing the modeling in two different eruptive phases provides the best estimate, as they are two different spreading and source phenomena. The Plinian fallout bulk volume thus calculated is 54 km^3 (22.6 km^3 DRE, using a magma density of 2,500 kg/m^3) and the co-ignimbrite bulk volume as 153.9 km^3 (61.6 km^3 DRE), for a total bulk volume of 207.9 km^3 (84.2 km^3 DRE).

To summarize, the range in volumes is wide (an order of magnitude, 54–500 km^3, in bulk volume) due to the different methods used, which is a problem in view of the importance of such figures in calculating the impact on climate and the environment. While the computational methods for the fallout deposits have improved significantly in the past ten years and the related figures for the CI fallout phase appear strong and solidly based on field data (Costa et al., 2012; Marti et al., 2016), the volume figures for the CI ignimbrite are still poorly constrained by field data and lack well-assessed (epistemic) uncertainties. The ignimbrite volume also affects the estimate of the volume of elutriated co-ignimbrite ash, which is the dominant fallout phase across Europe and the main fraction of ash injected into the stratosphere by the eruption (e.g., Costa et al., 2018).

METHODS

Investigated Campanian Ignimbrite Eruptive Unit

In order to reduce this wide range in volume estimates, we focus on constraining the volume of the ignimbrite deposits of the CI, as this is the most poorly constrained at present. We use volumes calculated by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) and Marti et al. (2016) for the initial pyroclastic Plinian fall phase and the co-ignimbrite fallout to estimate the total erupted volume. Our CI isopach map is based on previous published data, new fieldwork, and the assessment of the paleo-topographic control exerted on the deposits thickness distribution.

Density Measurements

More than 40 samples from different outcrops scattered around the Campanian Plain were analyzed to determine their density. Samples were cut in cylinders (with radius between 0.9 and 2 cm and height between 0.8 and 5.7 cm) or cubes (sides from 0.8 to 2.5 cm) and analyzed using a Micromeritics AccuPyc II 1340 helium pycnometer. The instrument provides a standard deviation for each measurement that was used to evaluate the density errors. The resulting density was used to interpret total and open porosity. Open porosity was estimated with geometric (V_g) and matrix volume (V_{mx}): $100 \times (V_g - V_{mx})/V_g$, while closed porosity was determined using the DRE of the WGI and Piperno powder, which was obtained by the pycnometer. The total porosity (φ_t) was calculated directly by summing closed and open porosity. The density is used to determine the DRE volume.

Database and Fieldwork

Published data regarding CI thickness and outcrop locations were collected from 42 papers (presented in **Supplementary Table S1**). The data were inserted in a GIS Open-Source QGIS 3.4 (https://www.qgis.org/it/site/) database including 238 localized outcrops. The database includes the location name, the lithological description, the geographic coordinates, the elevation a.s.l., the thickness of the flow units (specifying whether total or minimum outcrop thickness), the maximum lithic dimensions and the

degree of welding. Where both base and top of the CI are exposed, the thickness is classified as total and elsewhere it is considered a minimum thickness. The database reports raw thickness data and adjustments due to erosion are explained later on.

This database has been augmented by our field data acquired in 97 locations (presented in **Supplementary Table S2**), both in proximal and distal areas (**Figure 1A**). At these new field sites, information on total or minimum thickness, to verify the local stratigraphy, and the relation of the ignimbrite to topography were collected.

Defining the Campanian Ignimbrite Pyroclastic Density Current Deposit Extent

The 0 m isopach is an outer limit beyond which the CI is not present, and it delimits the current areal distribution of the ignimbrite outcrops. The isopach was reconstructed through a first phase of revision of the geological maps already existing at the scale 1:50,000 or 1:100,000 (Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1963; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1965; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1966; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1967; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1971a; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1971b; Servizio Geologico d'Italia, 1975; ISPRA, 2009; ISPRA, 2010; ISPRA, 2011a; ISPRA, 2011b; ISPRA, 2011c; ISPRA, 2011d; ISPRA, 2014a; ISPRA, 2014b; ISPRA, 2016; ISPRA, 2018). The contact was traced between the CI and older units and extrapolated where CI does not crop out. In this circumstance, the ignimbrite is generally covered by younger deposits, so it is necessary to assess if the CI was emplaced in these locations. To do this, a statistical and morphological analysis of the slope of the top of the CI was applied and a comparison between the topography and the average slope of the CI top was carried out. Where the slope angle is comparable, the area was included in the 0 m isopach, even if CI does not crop out. The underlying basement (mostly Meso-Cenozoic calcareous or flysch rocks) has generally higher slope angles than the CI (for example, the Apennine flanks), so the CI produces a morphologically distinct slope. The isopach was traced to leave out high-slope areas and no primary CI deposition was interpreted. The slope analysis was performed on a slope map developed using a 10 m resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM; Tarquini et al., 2007; Tarquini et al., 2012; Tarquini and Nannipieri, 2017). The statistical and morphological analysis of the upper surface of the CI used 48,804 points distributed throughout the areal extent of the deposits (both in proximal and distal areas).

The Isopachs

To determine the isopach locations, two different methods were used, one in the proximal area to medial (from the caldera to the base of the Apennine Mountains, including the Campanian Plain) and one in the distal area. The almost complete lack of outcrops in the Campanian Plain and the valley-ponded depositional style in the ridge-valley topography of the Apennine Mountains (Rosi et al., 1983; Rosi et al., 1996; Perrotta et al., 2010; Langella et al., 2013; Scarpati et al., 2014; Scarpati et al., 2015a; Sparice, 2015; Fedele et al., 2016) make these different approaches necessary.

In the proximal-medial area, data from the literature (Ortolani and Aprile, 1985; Scandone et al., 1991; Bellucci, 1994; Rolandi et al., 2003; Milia and Torrente, 2007; Torrente et al., 2010; ISPRA, 2011d), consisting of more than 300 thickness values of CI from boreholes, outcrops, and geological sections were used to fit isopachs on the map (**Online Supplementary Material**). In the distal area, the isopach locations were based upon our field observations and a reconstruction of the pre-CI topography (**Figure 2**), which was a separate analysis based on series of ~150 profiles in the Apennine Mountains, drawn to outline the trend of the valleys (**Figure 2B**). The coastline of the Mediterranean Sea at the time of the CI emplacement (39.8 ka) was lower than today. Based upon limited sea-level correlation work in the Mediterranean basin (Lambeck and Bard, 2000; Antonioli et al., 2004; Antonioli, 2012), we assumed a sea level between 75 and 87 m below the present level.

Topographic cross-sections were traced orthogonally to the center of the valley and to the contour lines, including the flanks of the reliefs and the 0 m isopach. The slopes of the valley above the CI 0 m isopach were extended and gradually deepened toward the valley center in order to reconstruct the paleo-valley with an inclination of the sides similar to the current slope, always taking into consideration the geological and morphological features (**Figure 2B**), and assuming that the Meso-Cenozoic mountain slopes have not significantly changed since 40 ka. The base elevation of the paleo-valleys is constrained by field data where the CI base has been measured.

These reconstructed valleys culminate generally in a V shape, not considering the CI that filled them, with the bottom elevation, for each profile, representing the paleo-valley floor. All these elevations represent the ancient pattern of the valley bottom; for this reason, they were modified if they were inconsistent with the progressive downslope decrease in elevation toward the sea.

Finally, the neo-incision of rivers in the profiles was "filled in," so as to remove the linear erosion of the last 39.8 kyr, drawing a line that reproduces the original ignimbrite deposit before that the erosion occurred (**Figure 2B**). The CI thickness is calculated from these modified profiles, and it is from the top of the deposit obtained by the profiles into the paleo-valley slope. However, the thickness is always constrained by field data of the CI thickness and by the geological maps. These thickness values are then reported on the isopach map.

All the isopachs were traced in accordance with fieldwork, looking both to the base CI elevation and the CI thickness, the geology of Meso-Cenozoic valley sides and, finally, the present-day drainage network compared to the paleo-valleys during the eruption (**Figure 2**). Where these data were not consistent, an adjustment in some profiles was necessary. In some cases, a correction was made for an over-thickening in the valleys caused by an over-deepening of the extended valley sides, not consistent with field observations. In these cases, the thickness was modified in coherence with fieldwork.

We use, as a starting point for the volume estimate, the ignimbrite deposits volume obtained from the detailed isopach map. This information is lacking in previous estimates of the CI volume. We refer to all PDC units of the CI as the CI, without distinguishing them; in the medial and distal outcrops, the CI is mainly composed of WGI.

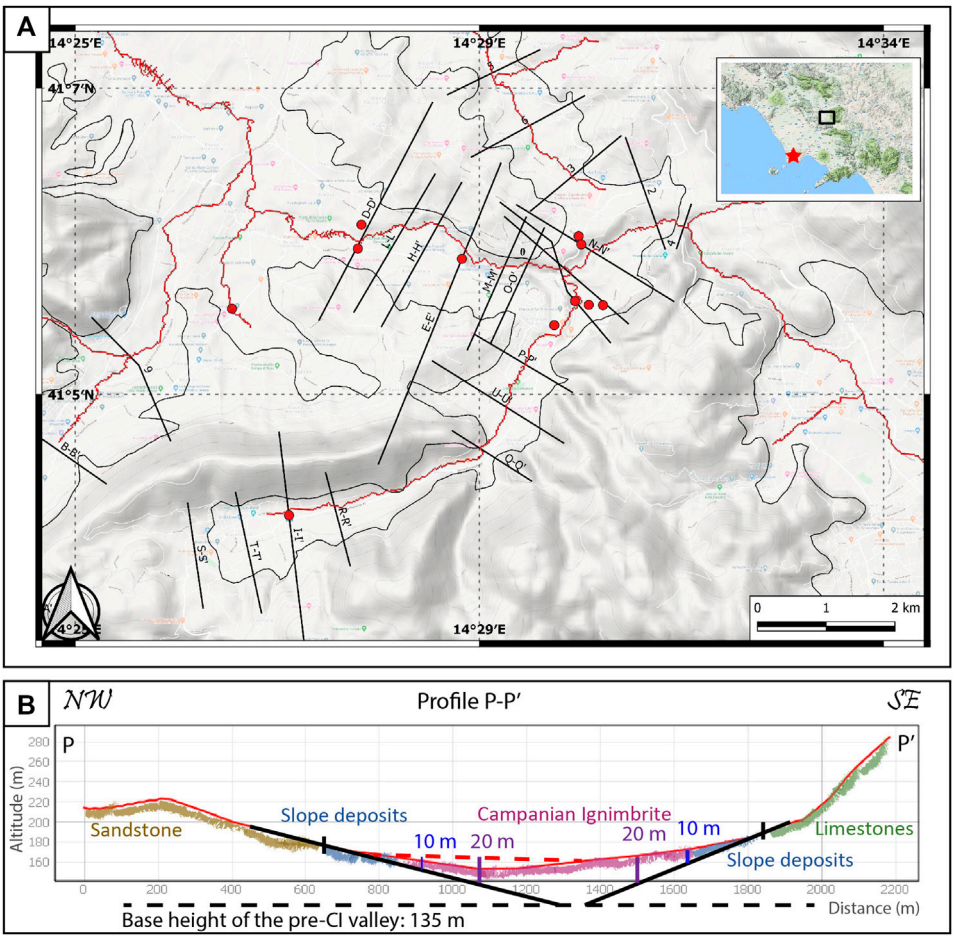


FIGURE 2 | The topographic reconstruction in the Sant'Agata dei Goti area (reported in the right corner, the red star is the vent). **(A)** A series of profiles traced to study the paleo-valley; the red dots are the studied outcrops where the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) is exposed. The red lines represent the river network developed through the QGIS software, while the black line is the 0 m isopach. **(B)** Reconstruction of the paleo-valley in profile P-P', the base elevation is constrained to the CI base observed by fieldwork and to the current slope of the valley. The resulting thickness is coherent with fieldwork, so where thicknesses are too high, they were not considered and the isopachs were traced up to a realistic thickness. The numbers represent the thickness of the CI in meters. The different colors represent different types of deposits, while the dashed red line, is the linear erosion that occurred in 39 kyrs.

RESULTS

The Isopach map

The morphological analysis shows that 64% (31,057) of the points have slopes lower than 5°. Moreover, 88% of the points have slopes lower than 15° and 99% have a surface slope lower than 55° (**Figure 3**). The CI slope values are consistent with field observations during this work and in agreement with the observation on the slope of the top surface of the valley-ponded Taupo Ignimbrite, which is around 8° (Wilson and Walker, 1985).

Based on these results, the 0 m isopach was traced to enclose all the mapped CI and areas that probably have the CI below the recent sedimentary cover, they have a slope less than 15° and they are in contact with mapped CI outcrop. The 15° slope is consistent with the results, and it allows the inclusion of all the possible CI extent. With this approach, some CI-containing valleys are isolated from the main CI deposits (**Figure 4**). The isolated valleys contain some CI outcrops, but they are confined by high slope or basement deposits nearby, and they are separated from the main ignimbrite by post-emplacement erosion. The total area enclosed by the 0 m isopach of the CI is 3,216 km^2 (**Figure 4**). To understand also the total area of the region inundated by the PDC, and avoid underestimation, a shape was drawn comprising all the maximum areal extension of the isopach 0 m. The enveloped area is 6,095 km^2 (**Online Supplementary Material**), similar to the 6,000 km^2 estimate of Thunell et al. (1979).

The isopach map traced in the proximal area does not include the intracaldera deposits. The maximum thickness in proximal areas is 80 m (**Figure 5**), mainly based on outcrops near the caldera rim; the CI thins gradually away from the caldera margin. The detailed isopach maps show the areas of thickening or thinning in the Campanian Plain and in the Apennines (**Figure 6**). The isopach for the distal reaches has a maximum

thickness of 50 m in the Valle dei Maddaloni (**Figure 6C**). In distal areas, a series of confined valleys show local thickening.

Density of the Campanian Ignimbrite Deposits

The bulk density (ρ) of the WGI samples ranges from 745 ± 15 kg/m^3 to 1,330 ± 3 kg/m^3, with an average of 980 ± 11 kg/m^3 (see *Density Measurements* to methods on how the errors were calculated). Error-free measures for all samples follow a Gaussian distribution with a standard deviation of the Gaussian probability density function of 127 kg/m^3. The bulk density of the Piperno unit ranges from 1,275 ± 8 kg/m^3 to 1,302 ± 2 kg/m^3, with an average of 1,287 ± 4 kg/m^3 (presented in **Supplementary Table S3**). The total WGI porosity ranges from 49 ± 5% to 71 ± 5% and the average is 61.6 ± 5%. The average for the Piperno unit it is 50 ± 1%. The total porosity matches with the range used by Pappalardo et al. (2008). The ρ DRE is 2,607 ± 31 kg/m^3, which is in agreement with the magma density used by Scarpati et al. (2014). The DRE volume is determined multiplying the bulk volume by $(100 - \varphi_t)/100$.

Deposits Volume Calculation

Data were plotted in a semi-logarithmic plot (**Figure 7**) in which thickness (T) and area (A) follow the relation: $T = T_{max} \exp(-k_1 A)$ (Wilson, 1991). T_{max} of the CI from this relation is 71.3 m (the measured value in the field is 80 m), k_1 is equal to 10^{-9} m^{-2} and r^2 is 0.929. These values were obtained plotting thickness and area with the same unit (m).

Following this equation, the volume is the definite integral of the function, where the area of each isopach was calculated directly from the QGIS software. **Table 2** displays the values of the area and the volume for each isopach extrapolated by the function (**Figure 7**). Summing all the isopach volumes, the total volume of the preserved extra-caldera CI deposits on land is 68.2 ± 6.6 km^3 (26.8 ± 2.6 km^3 DRE). The sources of error and the uncertainties were calculated separately for the proximal and medial area and for the distal one; their calculation is explained in the **Online Supplementary Material**. The CI volume was compared to other ignimbrites, whose bulk volumes span three orders of magnitude: the Lund Ignimbrite (4,400 km^3; Best et al., 2013a), the Greens Canyon Tuff (GCT, 600 km^3; Best et al., 2013a), the Petroglyph Cliff (40 km^3; Best et al., 2013a), the Oruanui ignimbrite (300 km^3; Wilson, 1991) and the Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite (RED, 35 km^3; Giordano, 2010; Giordano and Doronzo, 2017) (**Figure 7**).

To understand the extra-caldera volume subdivision in proximal and distal areas, the isopach map is divided into two parts, one comprising all the Campanian Plain, and the other from the first Apennine ridges to the final runout (**Figure 5**). The resulting extra-caldera volumes are 48.6 ± 1.7 km^3 in the proximal area (~70%) and 19.6 ± 4.9 km^3 in the distal area (~30%).

DISCUSSION

The linear relations between $\log_{10}$ thickness and area presented in **Figure 7** show all the ignimbrites have r^2 values above 0.9. k_1 varies between 10^{-10} m^{-2} and 10^{-9} m^{-2} for each ignimbrite, but it seems that bigger ignimbrites (Lund and Oruanui ignimbrites) have lower k_1 values. The concavity of this curve gives information on the aspect ratio of the deposits: concave-upward curves (i.e., convex) refer to low-aspect-ratio deposits while concave-downward curves apply to high-aspect-ratio ignimbrites (Wilson, 1991). The CI shows an intermediate aspect ratio, with the first part of the curve upward and the second downward, which reflects the field evidence, noticed during the fieldwork, of both low and high aspect ratio behavior of the CI. Greens Canyon Tuff and RED show a similar change in concavity. The RED shows similar features to the CI in the field: both ignimbrites encountered topographic barriers perpendicular to the flow, such that the RED climbed topographic barriers as high as 400 m (Giordano, 2010) while the CI overtopped 1,000 m barriers. Such interaction has an important role in the flow dynamics (e.g., Bursik and Woods, 2000; Andrews and Manga, 2011) and it is associated with a decrease in carrying capacity and an increase of the sedimentation rate (Giordano, 1998). The change of the curve concavity could directly show the sedimentation rate fluctuations.

Extracaldera Volume

The data from this work were compared with Ruberti et al. (2020), who proposed contour maps of the lower and the upper surfaces of the CI for the northwestern sector of the proximal-medial area, based on 1,000 lithostratigraphic logs from boreholes. The extrapolated thicknesses from their maps were

TABLE 2 | The values of thickness (m), area (km^2), cumulative area (km^2), volume (km^3), cumulative volume (km^3) and the percentage of volume for each isopach.

Thickness (m)	Area (km^2)	Cumulative area (km^2)	Volume (km^3)	Cumulative volume (km^3)	Volume (%)
>80	12.6	12.6	0.9	0.9	1.3
70–79	12.3	24.9	0.9	1.8	1.3
60–69	19.1	44.0	1.3	3.1	1.9
50–59	31.3	75.3	2.1	5.2	3.1
40–49	234.0	309.4	13.8	19.0	20.2
30–39	194.5	503.9	9.2	28.2	13.6
20–29	854.0	1,357.9	24.7	53.0	36.3
10–19	862.0	2,219.9	10.6	63.6	15.5
0–9	995.7	3,215.6	4.6	68.2	6.8
Total	3,215.6	—	68.2	—	—

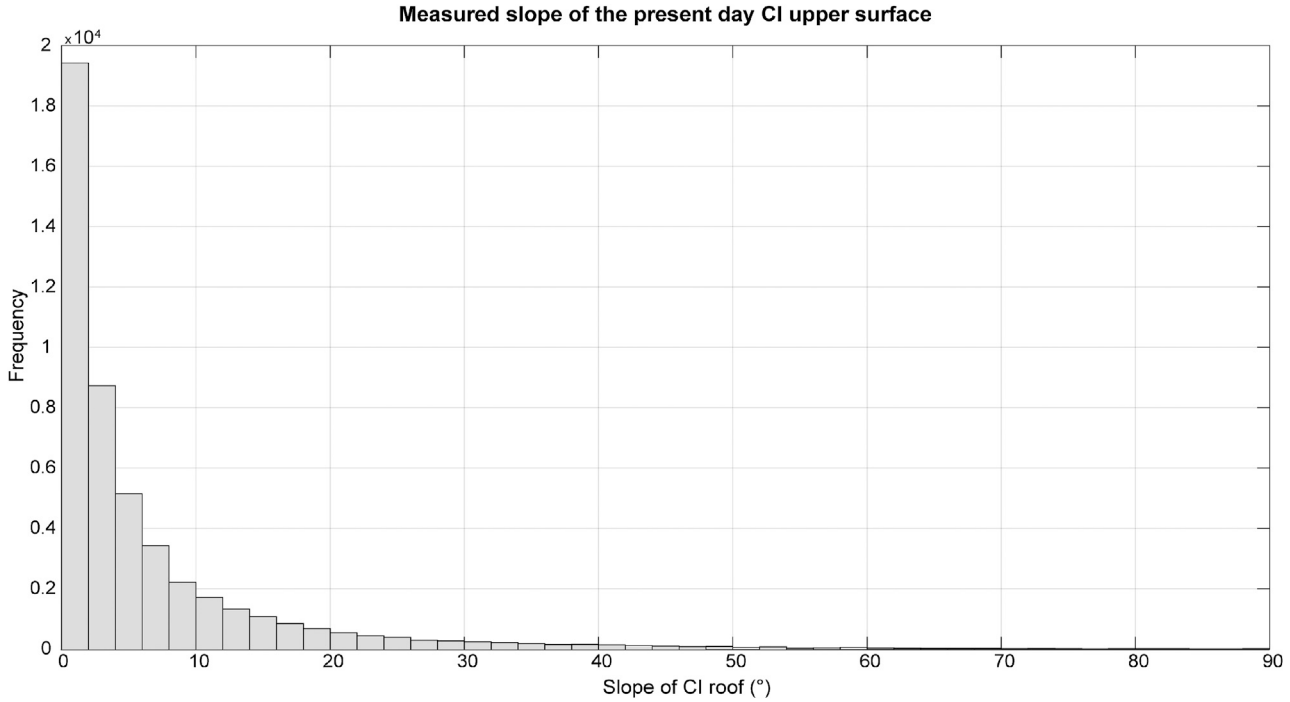


FIGURE 3 | Frequency of the slope of the upper surface of the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI). At least 80% of the exposed CI upper surface slopes less than 10°. The areas with slope greater than 35° are related to river incisions and CI escarpments.

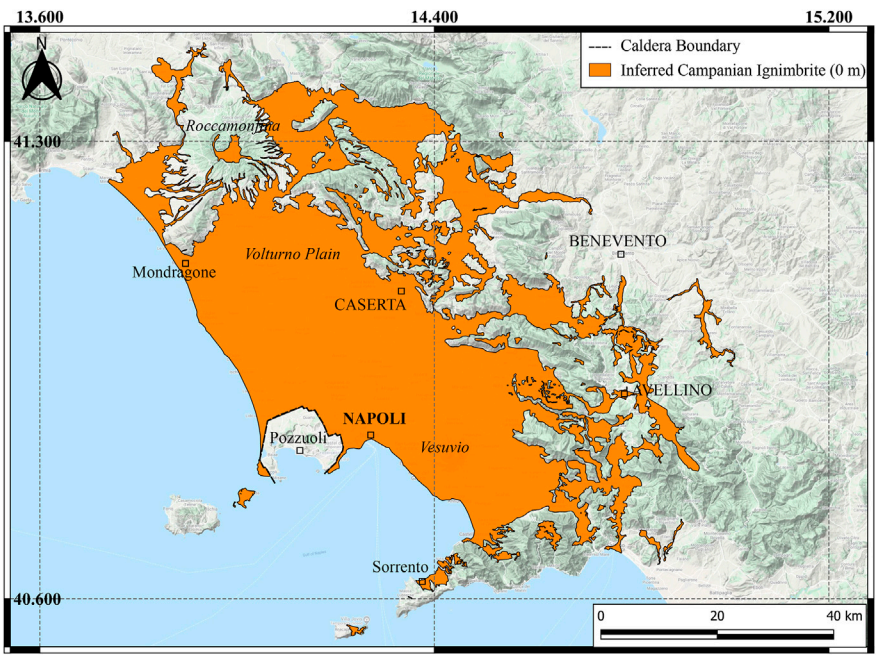


FIGURE 4 | Reconstruction of the areal extent of the ignimbrite deposits, enclosed within the 0 m isopach is shown in orange. The total area covered by the preserved deposits of CI is 3,216 km^2, the envelopment with a shape is equal to 6,095 km^2 (**Online Supplementary Material**). The isolated areas from the source are due to the erosion of veneer facies.

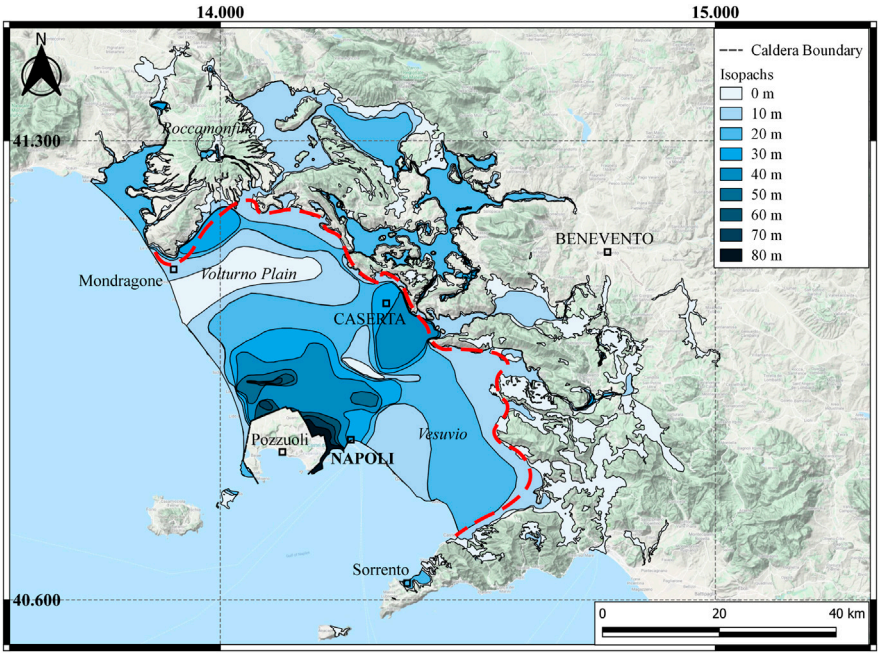


FIGURE 5 | Isopach map of the preserved extra-caldera deposits of the Campanian Ignimbrite. This map refers only to the ignimbrite deposits; it excludes the Plinian fallout and the co-ignimbrite ash. The different colors for each isopach are reported in the map key. The red dashed line divides the proximal and the distal area.

compared with the isopach map of this work by drawing a new proximal isopach map based on their contour maps. The volume calculated from this new isopach map is 46.5 km^3, 2.1 km^3 less than the volume we estimated. This difference is included in the 6.6 km^3 of the total volume error and uncertainties here presented. The data proposed by Ruberti et al. (2020) were not inserted in the isopach map reported in this work to avoid error propagation due to data coming from contour maps rather than deposit thickness measurements. However, a greater thickness in the Volturno Plain compared to this work could be considered, as proposed by Ruberti et al. (2020).

The error and uncertainties associated with our volume estimate of the terrestrial CI ignimbrite deposits (68.2 ± 6.6 km^3) are less than 10% (**Online Supplementary Material**), a good precision considering that many published estimates of eruption volume may be barely more precise than one order of magnitude (Mason et al., 2004). The accuracy of the applied method is also due to the development of the 0 m isopach areal extent. Cutler et al. (2020) demonstrated that the inclusion of zero values improved the modeling and the volume calculations for tephra layers of Mount St Helens. Moreover, the complexity of the isopach shapes, instead of simplified oblate shapes, allows better consideration of raw thickness data and lessens inaccurate volume estimates (Engwell et al., 2015). This method can now be applied to ignimbrite deposits, with a good parallelism between flow and fall volume calculations.

The volume we presented above is not the total volume of the CI PDC deposits, but the preserved extra-caldera ignimbrite volume and several corrections must be applied to this value (Mason et al., 2004; Folkes et al., 2011). Each factor has relative uncertainties, but here we constrain them to a well-defined preserved extra-caldera volume and we analyze each minimum and maximum volume. A significant amount of pyroclastic material was deposited in the sea and within the caldera, significant erosion has occurred in the last 39.8 kyrs, and a large amount of co-ignimbrite ash elutriated or rose into the air as a column.

The reconstructed isopachs do not consider the linear erosion due to river incision of the CI so the possible areal erosion must be calculated. The linear erosion is related to the selective erosion due to rivers, while the areal erosion comprises all the regional processes that occurred in the area. The deposits of WGI show a mainly valley-ponded deposit pattern; in many areas where the ignimbrite was deposited in narrow valleys (for instance near Roccamonfina), the only unit that mantles the topography is USAF, while the upper surface of WGI is mainly horizontal (**Figure 3**) (Sparice, 2015). This suggests that USAF is a facies emplaced over a wider area than WGI, comprising also topographic highs with mantling and veneer features, but was then subjected to significant areal erosion (Wilson, 1991). The thickness of USAF is mainly between 10 cm and 1 m; in rare cases, it can reach 3 m (Fedele et al., 2016). A median thickness of 1 m is assumed as eroded material for all the enveloped area (6,095 km^2, projected area) not covered by valley-pond facies, as a reference for the areal erosion. To calculate the erosion, we used the real surface of the enveloped area. The real surface is the actual surface of an area, not its projection, and it considers also the mountain slopes. From the Digital Elevation Model, the real surface was computed at 9,575 km^2. The volume associated with the areal erosion, on the real surface, is 9.6 km^3 (V_e) (3.7 km^3

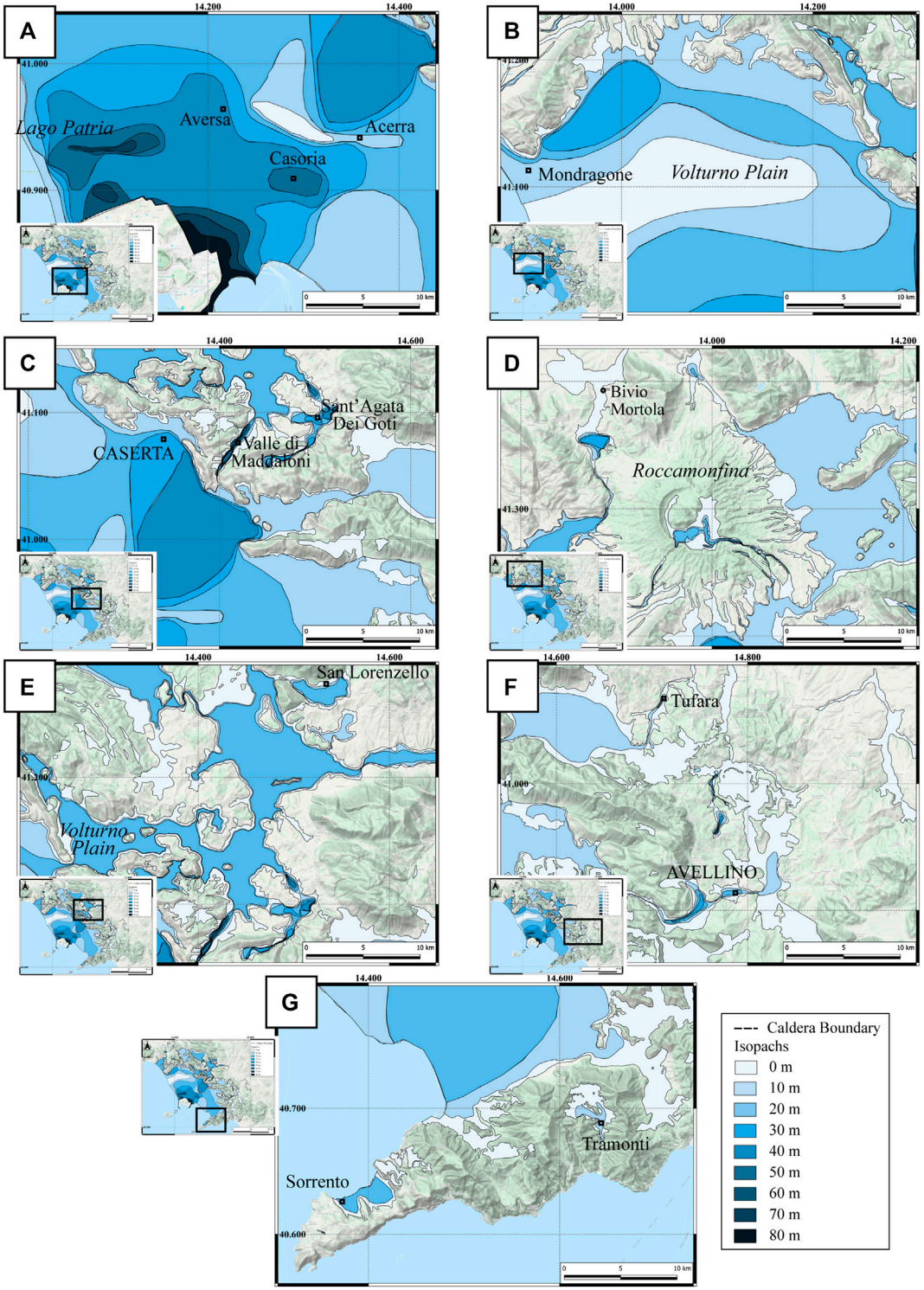


FIGURE 6 | Detailed isopach maps of selected areas of the Campanian Ignimbrite (excludes fallout): **(A)** north of the caldera, between Lago Patria and Acerra; **(B)** northern part of the Campanian Plain; **(C)** Apennine ridges east of the Campi Flegrei caldera and the Valley of Maddaloni; **(D)** Roccamonfina and Mortola, in the north of the studied area; **(E)** Volturno plain and San Lorenzello area, northeast of the caldera; **(F)** distal area of Avellino, southeast of the caldera; **(G)** Sorrento peninsula, in the southern part of the studied area. See *The Isopachs* to detailed methods on how the isopachs were traced.

TABLE 3 | The volume of the CI eruption. The various parts of the PDC volume estimate are explained in the text. The fallout volume considered in this work is the maximum and the minimum proposed in literature by Perrotta and Scarpati (2003) and Marti et al. (2016).

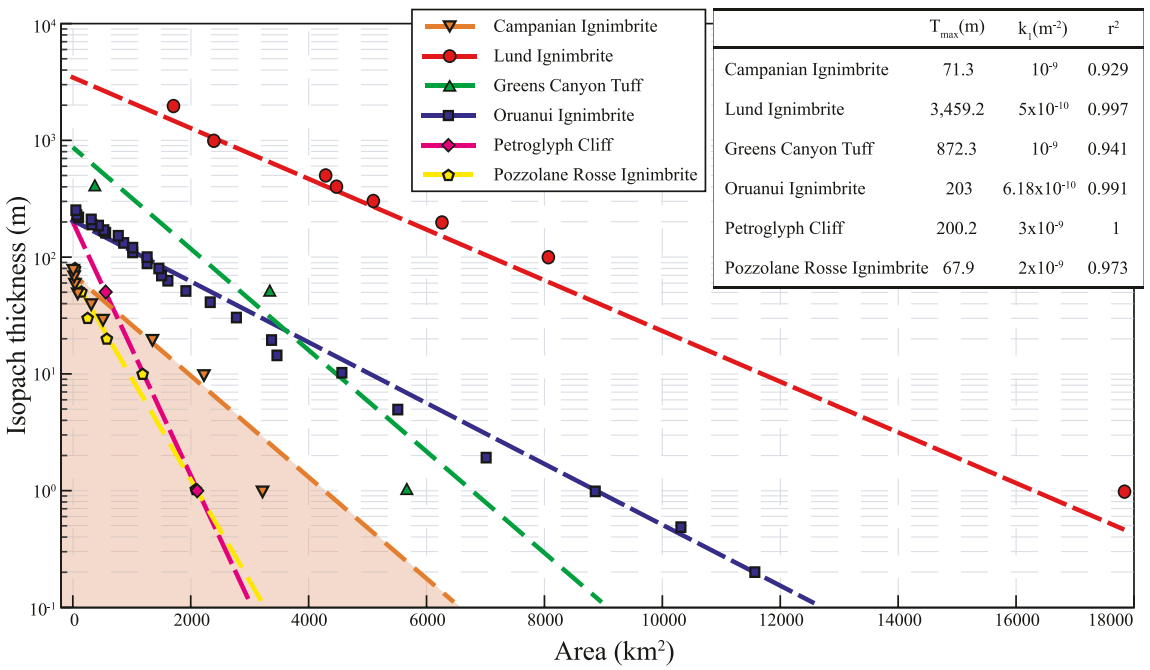
	Bulk volume (km^3)	DRE volume (km^3)
Preserved extra-caldera ignimbrite volume (V_{pr})	62–75	24–29
Marine volume (V_m)	62–75	24–29
Intracaldera volume (V_{intr})	16–43	8–21
Areal erosion volume (V_e)	10	4
Co-Ignimbrite ash volume (V_{coign})	294–394	116–155
Total PDC volume (V_{pdc})	453–606	179–243
Fallout volume (V_{Pfall}) (Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Marti et al., 2016)	4–54	2–22
Total CI volume (V)	457–660	181–265

PDC, pyroclastic density current.

DRE, using the average density of WGI). This is a correction based on field observations (USAF mantling the topography) and an average calculation (the thickness and the area) could vary if the eroded thickness, or involved area, are substantially different from those assumed here.

The CF caldera is located near and below the current sea-level but, about 40 ka, the coastline was farther to the southwest corresponding to a level between 75 and 87 m below its present position (Lambeck and Bard, 2000; Antonioli et al., 2004; Antonioli, 2012) (**Figure 8**). Based on the distribution on land of the ignimbrite, the assumed radial spreading (Thunell et al., 1979; Fisher et al., 1993; Ort et al., 2003), and the position of the CF caldera relative to the coastline (**Figure 8**), a roughly equal amount of material should be present both on land and offshore. The bathymetry offshore shows depressions and valleys south of the caldera that could be areas of ignimbrite deposit accumulation (**Figure 8**). Flow deposits of Kos and Krakatau demonstrate that PDCs can travel considerable distances above sea water (Carey et al., 1996; Allen and Cas, 2001; Dufek and Bergantz, 2007) and it is known the Campanian PDC flowed over the water of the Bay of Naples to deposit on the Sorrento Peninsula (~35 km from Pozzuoli Bay to Sorrento) (Fisher et al., 1993).

The occurrence of turbidity currents in the Mediterranean basin coeval with the eruption was confirmed by analyses of the core CT85-5 in the Tyrrhenian Sea (40°19′02″N, 11°15′42″E), more than



	T_{max}(m)	k_1(m^{-2})	r^2
Campanian Ignimbrite	71.3	10^{-9}	0.929
Lund Ignimbrite	3,459.2	$5x10^{-10}$	0.997
Greens Canyon Tuff	872.3	10^{-9}	0.941
Oruanui Ignimbrite	203	$6.18x10^{-10}$	0.991
Petroglyph Cliff	200.2	$3x10^{-9}$	1
Pozzolane Rosse Ignimbrite	67.9	$2x10^{-9}$	0.973

FIGURE 7 | Thickness (in log scale) vs. the cumulative area enclosed in that thickness of each isopach of different ignimbrites [the Campanian Ignimbrite (CI) in orange; the Lund Ignimbrite in red, Best et al., 2013a; the Greens Canyon Tuff in green, Best et al., 2013a; the Oruanui Ignimbrite in blue, Wilson, 1991; the Petroglyph Cliff in pink, Best et al., 2013a; and the Pozzolane Rosse Ignimbrite in yellow, Giordano and Doronzo, 2017]. The dashed lines represent the fit of each ignimbrite. The values of the fitting (T_{max}, k_1, and r^2) are reported in the upper right corner. The plotted CI points are those obtained by the isopach map. The CI volume is the integrated area displayed in orange.

200 km west of the CF caldera (Cini Castagnoli et al., 1995; Giaccio, 2006; Giaccio et al., 2006; Hajdas et al., 2011). The 45 cm-thick CI tephra recognized within the core was used as an important time marker. The nearby CT85-6 confirmed the presence of the CI tephra, but it was less studied as its record is shorter and the CI tephra is not reported fully (Hajdas et al., 2011). The CI layer contains shallow water gastropods and internal lamination, which indicate that at least 10 cm of the section are from turbiditic origin (Cini Castagnoli et al., 1995; Giaccio, 2006; Hajdas et al., 2011). These volcaniclastic currents related to the CI eruption are reported throughout the Tyrrhenian basin (McCoy and Cornell, 1990; Giaccio, 2006) and interpreted as the result of large syn-eruptive transport of the CI material as the PDCs entered the water. The turbidity currents can be reasonably considered as primary products of the eruption (Giaccio, 2006). Milia et al. (2020) report the presence of a debris flow related to the CI eruption in the CET2 core (39°55.23′N, 14°07.56′E) and an erosive surface in the nearby CET1 core (39°54.69′N, 14°06.65′E), both located in the lower bathyal zone offshore of the Campania margin. These authors recognized the CI's impact in the area and the possible generation of a tsunami related to the eruption.

For these reasons, a large amount of underwater material is realistic and, because of the nearly equal radial area covered by sea vs. on land, is considered equal to the on-land material, so each is considered to have a volume of 68.2 ± 6.6 km^3 (V_m). However, the total volume that entered the water during and after the eruption was equal to the preserved volume on land plus the eroded volume (68.2 + 9.6 km^3).

Intracaldera Volume

Wells have been drilled since the 1940s to understand the deep geothermal system in CF, reaching depths of 1,600–3,000 m below ground surface (Rosi and Sbrana, 1987). A strong hydrothermal alteration was recognized, with four main zones marked by distinctive mineral assemblages. These wells reached the CI units, but the extensive hydrothermal alteration prevented its identification. Due to the high uncertainties of correlating CI deposits inside the caldera, the isopach map was traced without the intracaldera area and the intracaldera volume was not estimated in this work.

More recently, a 506 m borehole was drilled west of Naples, penetrating both the NYT and CI (Mormone et al., 2015; De Natale et al., 2016). The hydrothermal alteration in the proximity of CI (around 439 and 501 m) was recognized and made the correlation with the deposits extremely difficult. However, through lithological, mineralogical and $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ dating the authors recognized around 250 m of intracaldera CI (De Natale et al., 2016). This thickness value was previously observed through geological and geophysical features (Torrente et al., 2010). The ignimbrite volume inside the caldera was then estimated at less than 16 km^3, using a caldera area of 64 km^2 (De Natale et al., 2016).

There are some uncertainties due to the caldera's true shape. Vitale and Isaia (2014) proposed a 12 km-wide polygonal caldera, which corresponds to an area of 144 km^2, while De Natale et al. (2016) suggested a minimum area of 64 km^2. Considering an average thickness of 250 m of intracaldera deposits (De Natale et al., 2016), and an area varying from 64 to 144 km^2, the intracaldera volume (V_{intr}) ranges between 16 and 43.2 km^3 (7.9–21.4 km^3 DRE, using the proximal unit density of the Piperno).

Distal Tephra Volume

The CI tephra is an important correlation tool and time marker for Quaternary stratigraphy in different basins and archaeological sites in Western Eurasia. The tephra layer is visible in numerous sedimentary records, including marine (Keller et al., 1978; Paterne et al., 1986; Paterne et al., 1999; Ton-That et al., 2001), terrestrial sequences (Veres et al., 2013), cave-entrance environments (Fedele et al., 2003; Giaccio et al., 2008), lacustrine records (Narcisi, 1996) and archaeological sites (e.g., Badino et al., 2020). The occurrence of the CI tephra in archaeological sites helps to address the human bio-cultural evolution at the Middle-Upper Paleolithic transition in Italy (Castelcivita, Serino, and Grotta del Cavallo sites; Gambassini, 1997; Giaccio et al., 2008 and references therein; Lowe et al., 2012; Wood et al., 2012; Zanchetta et al., 2018), in Montenegro (Crvena Stijena; Morley and Woodward, 2011; Mihailović and Whallon, 2017), in Greece (Douka et al., 2014; Zanchetta et al., 2018) and in Russia (Kostenki; Giaccio et al., 2008 and references therein). In very distal sites, it can be found as a cryptotephra not visible to the naked eye, but clearly useful as an absolute and relative chronological and stratigraphic marker (Lowe et al., 2012).

Defining the distribution of the ultra-distal deposits is a difficult task due to the limitation of the field data available and to the thinning of the ash layers. Underestimation of the deposit volume can be result from simple extrapolation from proximal, medial, and distal data to the ultra-distal region. The case of the CI is complicated by the presence of both co-Plinian fallout ash and co-ignimbrite fallout ash, both transported far from the vent through to Eastern Europe and Russia (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Narcisi and Vezzoli, 1999; Fedele et al., 2003; Giaccio et al., 2006; Pyle et al., 2006; Engwell et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2016).

Nevertheless, the ultra-distal tephra volume is necessary to define the total CI eruptive volume. Sparks and Huang (1980) recognized the bimodal grain-size of the ultra-distal deposits of the CI, interpreting the coarse lower unit as formed during the Plinian phase, and the finer upper unit as the co-ignimbrite phase. These features were also observed by Wulf et al. (2004) at Monticchio Lake. Sparks and Huang (1980) estimated that the fine layer represents, on average, 65% of the tephra volume and increases in proportion away from the vent, from 20% at 450 km to 95% of the deposit at 1,660 km from the vent. However, an absolute volume for each phase was not defined. The decreasing of Plinian material with distance from the source was also observed by Engwell et al. (2014), who used the grain-size data to investigate the dispersal of the co-Plinian and the co-ignimbrite phases. The authors calculated that 40 ± 5% of the volume of tephra within 850 km of the vent is related to the Plinian phase (as a consequence, around 60% relates to the co-ignimbrite phase, in agreement with Sparks and Huang, 1980). Furthermore, they recognized the difficulty in quantifying the absolute volume of the two phases, due to the complexity of separating the two layers in more distal deposits.

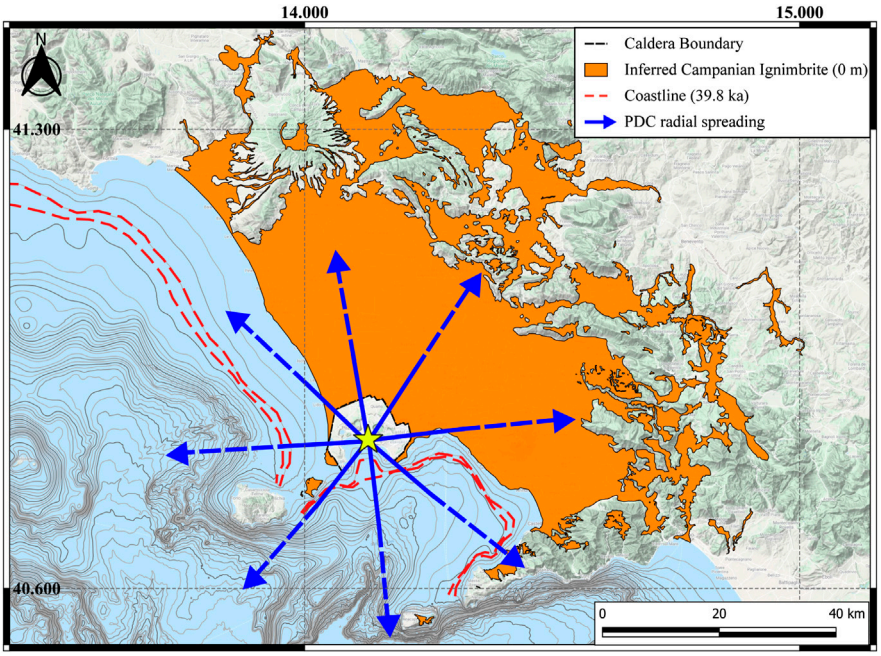


FIGURE 8 | Bathymetry of the submerged area of the Campi Flegrei caldera. The red line is the 40 ka coastline, equivalent to −75 to −87 m of the present one. The blue arrows indicate the possible radial spreading of the pyroclastic density current (PDC) based on outcrops disposed radially from the center of the caldera (yellow star) and turbidity currents in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Accumulation of volume south of the caldera is credible, due to the large submarine depressions and valleys.

Smith et al. (2016) used the CI tephra glass composition to map the dispersal of the Plinian and co-ignimbrite components over the dispersal region. Based on the glass composition, the authors recognized that the PDC component is dominant in the ultra-distal deposits, and the PDC produced the most voluminous deposits of the eruption.

Summarizing, a significant part of the pyroclastic current was elutriated or rose into the atmosphere as a co-ignimbrite cloud during the eruption and dispersed to the east (Thunell et al., 1979; Cornell et al., 1983; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Pyle et al., 2006; Engwell et al., 2014; Scarpati and Perrotta, 2016). The co-ignimbrite phase was a substantial part of the total volume; but it remains difficult to define the associated absolute volume rather than as a percentage of the tephra layer.

The Volume, Mass, and Magnitude of the Campanian Ignimbrite Eruption

The bulk ignimbrite volume (V_{ign}) (**Eqs 4 and 5**) without the co-ignimbrite phase can be estimated as follows:

$$V_{ignmin} = V_{pr} + V_m + V_{intr} + 2V_e = 61.6 + 61.6 + 16 + 9.6 + 9.6 = 158.4\ km^3 \quad (4)$$

and

$$V_{ignmax} = V_{pr} + V_m + V_{intr} + 2V_e = 74.8 + 74.8 + 43.2 + 9.6 + 9.6 = 212.0\ km^3 \quad (5)$$

The total bulk PDC volume obtained using **Eqs 4 and 5** is 158.4–212.0 km^3 (**Table 3**). The co-ignimbrite volume (V_{coign}) is estimated using the formula **(6)** based on the crystal concentration method proposed by Scarpati et al. (2014) **Eq. (3)**:

$$V_{coign} = \frac{Vitric\ loss \times V_{ign}}{1 - Vitric\ loss} = \frac{0.65 \times V_{ign}}{1 - 0.65} = 294.2 - 393.7\ km^3 \quad (6)$$

The co-ignimbrite volume, using a vitric loss of 0.65, ranges between 294.2 and 393.7 km^3 (115.8–155.0 km^3 DRE), producing the highest of all previous estimates (**Table 1**). However, V_{coign} could change significantly based upon the value of vitric loss used. Walker (1972) proposed a vitric loss of 0.55 for a WGI outcrop at Altavilla, near Benevento. Using this datum, the co-ignimbrite bulk volume decreases to between 193.6 and 259.1 km^3. In this work, we use 0.65, as proposed by Scarpati et al. (2014), which is an average of more samples located in several distal sites all over the CI distribution, and from different units but it is not far from 0.55 proposed by Walker (1972). Because the calculation of the V_{coign} is beyond the purpose of this work, an alternative is to use the minimum and maximum co-ignimbrite volume reported in the literature, which are between 72 and 153.9 km^3 bulk (31–61.6 km^3 DRE; respectively, from Pyle et al., 2006 and Marti et al., 2016), but it is worth considering that this may be a significant underestimate.

The total volume of the material erupted during the PDC phase of the CI eruption ranges between 452.6 and 605.7 km^3 (179.5–242.6 km^3 DRE) (**Table 3**). This estimate is based on the preserved deposits of the CI. Among the previous estimates presented in the literature, the closest to our PDC volume are those proposed by Giaccio (2006) and Pappalardo et al. (2008) (**Table 1**).

Using the previously published fallout volume (the minimum and the maximum proposed; Perrotta and Scarpati, 2003; Marti et al., 2016), in combination with our PDC volume, gives a total eruptive volume of all eruptive phases of 456.6–659.7 km^3 (181.2–265.2 km^3 DRE) (**Table 3**). However, any of the previous estimates for the fallout volume could be used in our total volume estimate. These values are similar to some previously proposed total volumes (Cornell et al., 1983; Fedele et al., 2003; Giaccio, 2006; Pyle et al., 2006; Pappalardo et al., 2008; Costa et al., 2012), but they are constrained, for the first time, by direct thickness measurements of the ignimbrite deposit.

The mass associated with this volume, using our density estimate is **Eq. (7)**:

$$mass_{\min} = 181.2\,km^3 \times 2,608\,kg/m^3 = 4.72 \times 10^{14}\,kg \quad (7)$$

And **Eq. (8)**:

$$mass_{\max} = 265.2\,km^3 \times 2,608\,kg/m^3 = 6.91 \times 10^{14}\,kg \quad (8)$$

and the magnitude (M) **Eq. (9)** (Mason et al., 2004):

$$M = \log 10\,(mass) - 7 = 7.7 - 7.8 \quad (9)$$

This value is consistent with a VEI 7 and makes this eruption the largest Quaternary event in Europe. It is important to note, though, that while our volume calculation falls within the huge range of values previously proposed in the literature, it is in no way confirmative of any of such previous estimates, as nowhere was clarified the method for the calculation of the actual PDC deposits of the CI. We strongly state here that as the Magnitude of eruptions is essential for their classification and is the best proxy for the energy of the event, the volume calculation of PDC deposits has to be accurate and reproducible, and cannot be left to generic, averaged estimates, such as the common and usually undefined use of "average thickness" and "average area covered." Our approach to the estimate of the CI volume aims at contributing to the consolidation of a clear and reproducible method for the calculation of the deposits on ground which is the only real value onto which any other correction, such as extent of erosion and amount of ash elutriated, can be inferred.

The M and the VEI for the CI are herein calculated, for the first time, by the spatial variation of PDC thickness data, a method similar to that used to calculate tephra fallout volume, but much more complicated because of the topographic control on the PDC currents and deposits. By contrast, great errors result from using average thickness and inaccurate methods (e.g., conical shapes) instead of an accurate and reproducible isopach map for the ignimbrite deposits. The method to develop this map could be applied to any ignimbrite, including those that are mainly valley-filling and/or emplaced in complex topographic settings, such as the Andean ignimbrites (e.g., the Curacautín ignimbrite at Llaima; Naranjo and Moreno, 2005) or the Ito ignimbrite (Baer et al., 1997). A rigorous definition of the 0 m isopach, the isopachs, and each correction factor is necessary to avoid inaccurate volumes. The determination of precise errors in the ignimbrite volume (±6.6 km^3 in CI case; **Online Supplementary Material**), produced using a well-defined method to trace isopachs, is an important step forward in the study of these types of deposits.

CONCLUSIONS

The CI eruption is the largest eruptive event of the CF caldera and a fundamental chronological marker in all Central and Eastern Europe. Here we presented a review of previous estimates in the scientific literature and proposed a new method to trace ignimbrite isopachs based on the extrapolation of the paleo-topography. It works well in valley-ponded ignimbrites such as the CI, and allows the calculation of well-defined uncertainties in the on-land total volume. Before the present study, no complete isopach map of the ignimbrite was available, due to the high irregularities of the deposits. A new isopach map of the extracaldera sub-aerial CI pyroclastic flow deposits yields a volume of 68.2 ± 6.6 km^3, based directly on deposit thickness values. The greater part of this volume is in the proximal area (48.6 ± 1.7 km^3, ~70%) while only around the 30% of the volume is in the distal region within the Apennine Mountains (19.6 ± 4.9 km^3). The method, similar to those used for tephra deposits, can be used on other ignimbrites, to produce more accurate volume estimates.

Evidence suggests that the same amount of material should be both on land and offshore (assuming radial spreading of the flow). The generated submarine currents could have deposited a large amount of volcaniclastic deposits in all the submarine canyons in the Gulf of Naples and in the Tyrrhenian Sea and possibly had a strong impact on the underwater dynamics of that area. Combining separate estimates of the marine volume, the volume removed by erosion, the intracaldera volume, and the co-ignimbrite ash volume yields a total volume of 453–606 km^3 (179–243 km^3 DRE) for the PDC deposits. These values are in agreement with Giaccio (2006) and Pappalardo et al. (2008), although it is the first time that they are calculated by direct measurements with constrained error estimates. This work deals with the importance of constraining eruptive volume with field data, presenting a rigorous method to develop ignimbrite isopachs that avoids the inaccuracy of approximate techniques and defines step-by-step techniques for isopach construction and the error corrections. This is the first attempt to estimate ignimbrite volume in a comparable way to tephra fallout volume and by direct thickness data. The development of isopach maps for ignimbrite deposits, especially in complex topographic areas, is the most accurate instrument to calculate ignimbrite volumes, and is better than approximate techniques using average thicknesses or conical shapes. A rigorous definition of the 0 m isopach, the isopachs and each correction factor is necessary to avoid inexact volumes. Field data remain an essential tool to constrain primary properties of PDCs.

The total (including Plinian fallout) bulk volume estimate is 457–660 km^3 (181–265 km^3 DRE). This volume corresponds to a mass of 4.7–6.9 × 10^{14} kg, to a magnitude of 7.7–7.8 and to a VEI 7.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

All datasets generated for this study are included in the article/ **Supplementary Material**.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

AS conducted fieldwork, analysis, wrote the draft of this manuscript, and made the figures. GG designed the research and helped in the development of the method. RI contributed to data collection. All the authors contributed to the fieldwork, reviewed, and edited the draft.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feart.2020.543399/full#supplementary-material

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The reviewer BG declared a past co-authorship with one of the authors RI to the handling editor.

GLOSSARY

a.s.l.: above sea level

CCDB Collapse Caldera Database

CE Common Era

CF Campi Flegrei

CI Campanian Ignimbrite

DEM Digital Elevation Model

DRE Dense Rock Equivalent

ka thousands of years ago

kyrs thousand years

GCT Greens Canyon Tuff

LAMEVE Large Magnitude Explosive Volcanic Eruptions https://www.bgs.ac.uk/vogripa/view/controller.cfc?method=lameve

LYT Lithified Yellow Tuff

M Magnitude

NYT Neapolitan Yellow Tuff

PDC Pyroclastic Density Current

RED Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite

USAF Unconsolidated Stratified Ash Flow

$\mathbf{V}$ total volume

$\mathbf{V_{coign}}$ co-ignimbrite ash fall volume

$\mathbf{V_{Pcol}}$ volume ejected during the phases that produced Plinian columns

$\mathbf{V_{coPfall}}$ co-Plinian fall volume

$\mathbf{V_e}$ areal erosion volume

VEI Volcanic Explosivity Index

$\mathbf{V_g}$ geometric volume

$\mathbf{V_{ign}}$ ignimbrite volume

$\mathbf{V_{intr}}$ intracaldera volume

$\mathbf{V_m}$ marine volume

$\mathbf{V_{mx}}$ matrix volume

$\mathbf{V_{pdc}}$ pyroclastic density current volume

$\mathbf{V_{Pfall}}$ proximal pumice lapilli deposits volume

$\mathbf{V_{pr}}$ preserved extra-caldera bulk volume

WGI Welded Gray Ignimbrite

$\boldsymbol{\rho}$ bulk density

$\boldsymbol{\varphi_t}$ total porosity.