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**LETTER**

# An improved clinopyroxene-based hygrometer for Etnean magmas and implications for eruption triggering mechanisms

**CRISTINA PERINELLI[1], SILVIO MOLLO[1,2,*], MARIO GAETA[1], SERENA PIA DE CRISTOFARO[3], DANILO M. PALLADINO[1], PIETRO ARMIENTI[4], PIERGIORGIO SCARLATO[2], AND KEITH D. PUTIRKA[5]**

[1]Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Sapienza-Università di Roma, P.le Aldo Moro 5, 00185 Roma, Italy
[2]Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Via di Vigna Murata 605, 00143 Roma, Italy
[3]Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Torino, Via Valperga Caluso 35, 10125 Torino, Italy
[4]Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Pisa, Via S. Maria 53, 56126 Pisa, Italy
[5]Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, California State University, Fresno, 2576 E. San Ramon Avenue, MS/ST25, Fresno, California 93740-8039, U.S.A.

## ABSTRACT

We have refined the clinopyroxene-based hygrometer published by Armienti et al. (2013) for a better quantitative understanding of the role of $H_2O$ in the differentiation of Etnean magmas. The original calibration data set has been significantly improved by including several experimental clinopyroxene compositions that closely reproduce those found in natural Etnean products. To verify the accuracy of the model, some randomly selected experimental clinopyroxene compositions external to the calibration data set have been used as test data. Through a statistic algorithm based on the Mallows' $C_P$ criterion, we also check that all model parameters do not cause data overfitting, or systematic error.

The application of the refined hygrometer to the Mt. Etna 2011–2013 lava fountains indicates that most of the decreases in $H_2O$ content occur at $P < 100$ MPa, in agreement with melt inclusion data suggesting abundant $H_2O$ degassing at shallow crustal levels during magma ascent in the conduit and eruption to the surface.

**Keywords:** Mt. Etna, clinopyroxene, hygrometer, $H_2O$ content