

1 **A bedform phase diagram for dense granular currents**

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A bedform phase diagram for dense granular currents

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24 **Pyroclastic density currents are a life-threatening volcanic hazard. Our understanding**
25 **and hazard assessments of these flows primarily rely on interpretations of their**
26 **deposits. The occurrence of stratified layers, cross-stratification, and dune bedforms in**
27 **these deposits has been assumed as indicative of dilute, turbulent, flows causing**
28 **traction-dominated deposition. Here we show, through analogue experiments, that a**
29 **variety of dune bedforms can be produced by denser, aerated, granular currents,**
30 **including regressive dune bedforms that are formed in waning flows by an upstream-**
31 **propagating granular bore. We are able to, for the first time, define phase fields for the**
32 **formation of dune bedforms in PDC deposits. We examine how our findings impact the**
33 **understanding of bedform features in outcrop, using the example of the Pozzolane**
34 **Rosse ignimbrite of the Colli Albani volcano, Italy, and thus highlight that**
35 **interpretations of the formative mechanisms of these features observed in the field must**
36 **be reconsidered.**

37

38 INTRODUCTION

39 Particulate density currents are the biggest mass transporters of sediment on the Earth's
40 surface. Deep sea turbidity currents form the largest sediment accumulations on Earth¹,
41 density currents emplace ejecta blankets around bolide impact craters² and individual
42 pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) can transport thousands of cubic kilometers of volcanic
43 material³. These flows also pose a major geohazard, with turbidity currents threatening
44 seafloor infrastructure and PDCs being responsible for over 90,000 deaths since 1600AD^{4,5}.
45 Understanding the behaviour of these particle-laden, fast-moving currents is fundamental to
46 decreasing the risks they pose to society.

47 The dynamics and depositional processes of PDCs are difficult to analyse due to a PDCs
48 destructiveness, and the concealment of the interior dynamics by an accompanying ash cloud.
49 Understanding of PDC behaviour therefore, is primarily based on analogue and numerical
50 modelling⁶⁻⁹, and interpretation of the geological record preserved in sedimentary deposits<sup>10-
51 14</sup>.

52 Analogue modelling of dense PDCs has advanced considerably over recent years including
53 work focusing on the influence of pore pressure^{8,15-20}. High gas pore pressures created by
54 various mechanisms within PDCs^{10,13,21-23} has been shown to be responsible for their
55 unusually high mobility²⁴⁻²⁶, but only recently has physical modelling reflected the sustained
56 and variable nature of such pore pressures with distance from source^{19,27}.

57 The presence and morphology of sedimentary structures, such as dune bedforms, in a deposit
58 can be interpreted to tell us about the internal behaviour of the density current that formed
59 them²⁸⁻³². Various dune bedforms occur in PDC-generated ignimbrites and are assumed to be
60 formed as deposits from dilute, high-velocity (surge), PDCs^{12,31,33-35}, where tractional
61 processes dominate in the flow-boundary zone due to the predominance of fluid turbulence as
62 a particle support mechanism^{6,13,36,37}. Denser, granular-fluid based, PDCs are usually thought
63 to be responsible for creation of massive deposits, lacking in sedimentary structures^{10,13,38,39}.

64 Dune bedforms in PDC deposits include structures whose morphologies have drawn
65 comparisons with fluvial chute-and-pool structures and antidunes (Fig. 1a & 1f and Fig. 1b &
66 1d), which are formed under supercritical hydraulic flow conditions^{29,32,40,41}. The widespread
67 interpretation of such structures in PDC deposits is that they are also the result of
68 supercritical flow^{12,33,42-45}.

69 Recently, however, there have been attempts to introduce new terminology, which does not
70 hold the genetic connotations of 'antidune' or 'chute-and-pool'. Douillet et al.³⁵ introduce the

71 term ‘regressive climbing dunes’ for dune bedforms which show upstream crest migration
72 (Fig. 1c). Brand et al.⁴⁶ adopt similar terminology, using ‘progressive dune bedforms’ and
73 ‘regressive dune bedforms’ (Fig. 1e). In this paper we follow Brand et al.⁴⁶ in using the term
74 ‘regressive dune bedform’ to describe upstream-migrating dune bedforms which have both
75 asymmetrical (much steeper stoss sides) (Fig. 1g) or roughly symmetrical lee and stoss slopes
76 (Fig. 1h).

77 Here we examine, for the first time, the conditions which promote the growth of dune
78 bedforms in aerated dense granular flows, as analogues for PDCs and their deposits. The
79 present work describes laboratory experiments in which use partially fluidised (“aerated”)
80 fine-grained ballotini sediment in a 3 m long flume (see Methods). These experiments are
81 able to simulate many behaviours of PDCs^{8,18,19,27}. As deposition aggrades from the quasi-
82 steady currents, the growth of dune bedforms is recorded using high speed video. We study
83 how dune bedform features form within the dense granular currents as a result of rapid
84 deposition and the propagation of a granular bore. We are able to, for the first time, define
85 phase fields for the formation of dune bedforms in ignimbrites using current velocity, current
86 thickness, Froude number, and Friction number. We examine how our interpretations impact
87 on the understanding of similar features in outcrop, using the example of the Pozzolane Rosse
88 ignimbrite of the Colli Albani volcano, Italy.

89 **RESULTS**

90 **Dune Bedform morphology**

91 A range of bedforms were observed growing under a variety of flow conditions within the
92 suite of experimental runs (see Methods). We categorise these bedforms into three types (Fig.
93 2): i) planar/very shallowly dipping ($<2^\circ$) regressive beds, ii) regressive dune bedforms with

94 shallow stoss sides less than the dynamic angle of repose ($< \theta_{Dyn}$), and iii) regressive dune
95 bedforms with steep ($> \theta_{Dyn}$) stoss sides.

96 Where steep regressive dune bedforms are present, they comprise multiple (3-4) stoss-side
97 packages dipping at varying angles, and a single corresponding lee-side bed. Dune bedform
98 lengths and thicknesses are reported, as opposed to wavelengths and amplitudes, as we do not
99 produce repetitive trains of bedforms. When reporting the length of a dune bedform, the
100 distance from the onset of the stoss-side packages to the termination of the lee slope on the
101 depositional surface is measured (similar to a half-wavelength). Thickness refers to the
102 maximum thickness of the entire dune bedform, perpendicular to its base (Fig. 1g and 1h).

103 Shallow regressive dune bedforms have form lengths between 0.18 m and 0.21 m and
104 thicknesses between 0.003 m and 0.01 m. Stoss and lee sides have similar dip angles (90 %
105 below 10° , see Fig. 8d), and successive crests migrate upstream, forming aggrading cross-
106 beds (Fig. 2).

107 Steep regressive dune bedforms have form lengths between 0.4 m and 0.18 m and thicknesses
108 between 0.35 m and 0.4 m. Stoss sides are considerably steeper ($>20^\circ$) than lee sides ($< 10^\circ$,
109 Fig. 8d), and each stoss-side package has a roughly sigmoidal shape. These also aggrade
110 upstream, with stoss angles becoming progressively steeper (20° - 90°) (Fig. 2a-d).

111 **Dune Bedform deposition**

112 The leading edges of the currents were travelling at $\sim 2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ as they passed into the lesser/un-
113 aerated second chamber of the flume (Fig. 3a, see Supplementary Video 1). The sustained,
114 quasi-steady body of the currents are slowed by the more rapid deaeration as they enter the
115 second chamber, and deposition begins. The currents, with velocities of ~ 1 - 1.5 ms^{-1} , initially
116 deposit planar or very shallow upstream-dipping beds (Fig. 3b). As the current velocity
117 further decreases and deposit thickness increases, upstream-migrating shallow dune bedforms

118 are deposited, their stoss sides forming shallow regressive beds (Fig. 3c-d). At lower
119 velocities still (below $\sim 0.5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$), the upstream edge of the deposit steepens and collapses,
120 with very steep regressive beds deposited just prior to this, forming the stoss sides of steep
121 regressive dune bedforms (Fig. 3e-f).

122 **Velocity and thickness control on bedform formation**

123 Current velocities and thicknesses during deposition of the dune bedforms were measured
124 (Supplementary Table 1) and plotted (Fig. 4a). Error for current thickness was calculated at \pm
125 0.0013 m (2σ). Error for current velocity was calculated at $\pm 0.055 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ (2σ). Planar, shallow,
126 and steep features fall into well-defined fields, suggesting that current velocity and thickness
127 controls the sedimentary structures in the deposit. For a given current thickness steep
128 regressive dune bedforms are deposited at lower velocities (between $0.3\text{-}0.6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ in these
129 experiments). Shallow regressive dune bedforms are deposited at greater velocities, and
130 planar bedforms are deposited at the highest velocities (above 1 ms^{-1} in these experiments).
131 With increasing current thickness higher current velocities are required to remain in the
132 shallow bedform and planar bedform stability fields. As a result thickening, a steady current
133 can lead to a change in bedform character without a requirement for a change in flow
134 velocity.

135 **Dimensionless parameters**

136 We define phase fields for the three dune bedforms using the Froude number (Fr) and the
137 Friction Number (N_F). The Froude number represents the ratio of kinetic to potential energy
138 (Eq 1).

$$139 \quad Fr = U/(gH)^{1/2} \quad (\text{Eq 1})$$

140 Where $U = \text{current velocity}$, $g = \text{gravity}$, and $H = \text{current thickness}$. N_F is the ratio of
 141 frictional to viscous stresses and is defined as Bagnold Number/Savage Number. The Savage
 142 number (N_S , Eq. 2) is the ratio of collisional stress to frictional stress^{47,48}, and the Bagnold
 143 number (N_B , Eq. 3) is the ratio of collisional stress to viscous fluid stress^{48,49}.

$$144 \quad N_S = \frac{\rho_s \left(\frac{U}{H}\right)^2 \delta^2}{(\rho_s - \rho_f) g H \tan \theta} \quad (\text{Eq 2})$$

$$145 \quad N_B = \varphi_f - \frac{\rho_s \delta^2 \left(\frac{U}{H}\right)}{(1 - \varphi_f) \mu} \quad (\text{Eq 3})$$

146 where $\rho_s = \text{particle density}$ $\rho_f = \text{fluid density}$ $\delta = \text{particle diameter}$ $\theta =$
 147 internal friction angle $\varphi_f = \text{solid volume fraction}$ $\mu = \text{fluid viscosity}$.

148 Froude numbers were calculated for each tracked sediment packages during deposition
 149 ($\pm 0.17, 2\sigma$). Figure 4a shows how different dune bedforms are formed under different ranges
 150 of Fr , with greater overlap between the steep and shallow regressive dune bedform fields
 151 than between the shallow regressive dune bedform and planar bed fields. Figure 4c shows a
 152 good correlation ($R = 0.843$) between Fr and velocity, with a noticeably greater data spread
 153 at higher ($> 0.8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$) velocities, whereas H exerts much less of a control on Fr (Fig. 4b).
 154 Figure 4d plots Fr against N_F ($\pm 67,000, 2\sigma$). Steep regressive dune bedforms are mostly
 155 deposited at Fr between 0.9 and 1.4, and N_F between 1×10^5 and 4×10^5 . Shallow regressive
 156 dune bedforms are mostly deposited at Fr between 1.9 and 3.5, and N_F between 3×10^4 and
 157 1.2×10^5 . Planar beds are mostly deposited at Fr between 3.6 and 6, and N_F between 1×10^4
 158 and 5×10^4 .

159 The planar-shallow-steep sequence of the dune bedform formation records the transition of a
 160 fast, supercritical current dominated by viscous stresses to a slower, subcritical current
 161 increasingly dominated by frictional stresses.

162 **Field Analogue**

163 The Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite is an example of where steep regressive bedforms have been
164 deposited by a PDC that is interpreted to be a dense flow (e.g. matrix-supported, fines
165 depleted; Fig. 5). The Pozzolane Rosse covers an area of more than 1600 km² around the
166 Colli Albani volcano, Italy⁵⁰, and has been dated (⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar) at 456 ± 3 ka⁵¹. It surmounts
167 topography of 250 m to reach altitudes of 440 m⁵². The ignimbrite is generally massive,
168 matrix-supported and poorly-sorted, with a noticeable depletion in fine ash, and in places
169 partially lithified by zeolites⁵². Emplacement temperatures have been calculated to be
170 between 630 °C and 710 °C⁵³. Grain size analysis on six representative samples taken from
171 Pozzolane Rosse show they are dominated by lapilli-sized grains and severely depleted in the
172 < 63 µm fraction (Fig. 5). Figure 6 shows that our Pozzolane Rosse samples fall into the
173 ‘Fines-depleted flow’ field of Walker³⁵, similar to previous work on the ignimbrite⁵⁰. Grains
174 are dominantly poorly vesicular scoria with compositions plotting in the tephrite/basanite
175 field⁵⁴. Rotating drum tests on the six samples taken from the Pozzolane Rosse (excluding
176 grains > 0.0056 m) gave static minimum (Θ_{Smin}), maximum (Θ_{Smax}) and dynamic (Θ_{Dyn})
177 angles of repose of 35.3°, 51.7° and 45.2° respectively (Supplementary Fig. 1). These values
178 are considerably higher than those obtained for the ballotini used in the experiments
179 (Supplementary Fig. 2), likely due to the variable grainsize, angularity and cohesion of the
180 ignimbrite grains.

181 The Pozzolane Rosse shares many characteristics with massive ignimbrites which are
182 ubiquitously interpreted as deposits of dense, granular fluid PDCs, with the clear exception of
183 the paradoxical presence of dune bedforms within the deposit, which are typically indicative
184 of dilute, turbulent flow (“pyroclastic surges”). As other indicators of this type of flow, such
185 as well developed, thin stratification, good sorting, and abundance of fines are lacking, we
186 interpret the Pozzolane Rosse to have been deposited by a dense, granular PDC.

187 Dune bedforms are found in the NE sector of the ignimbrite where it leaves the radial plain
188 and runs up into the Apennine mountains⁵⁵. Figure 7a- c shows some of these dune bedforms
189 and the angles of their stoss sides, several of which are greater than 20°, similar to the stoss
190 angles of our experimental steep dune bedforms (Fig. 7d). Shallow stoss-sided dune bedforms
191 are found in the Pozzolane Rosse, although they tend to have greater lee (due to the greater
192 repose angles of the material) and stoss angles than experimental examples, where both are
193 <10°.

194 **DISCUSSION**

195 Our experimental currents show rapidly evolving Froude numbers. Within the current body,
196 planar beds are deposited at *Fr* 3-5, shallow regressive dune bedforms at *Fr* 2-3, and steep
197 regressive dune bedforms at *Fr* 0.59-2. We show that an apparent hydraulic jump within the
198 flow forms in the current as the deposit thickens (Fig. 8). As the experimental current is
199 granular, we adopt the term granular jump⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸, which shares many characteristics with its
200 fluvial counterpart. Although the current has a lower *Fr* immediately after the jump than the
201 incoming current, this is not always <1.

202 The deposition of steep regressive dune bedforms in more conventional hydraulic systems
203 (e.g. alluvial channels or turbidity currents) is related to the formation and propagation of
204 hydraulic jumps, where flow transforms from Froude supercritical (>1) to Froude subcritical
205 (<1). Using this hydraulic model, the existing interpretation of features in PDC deposits,
206 which are visually similar to fluvial chute-and-pool structures^{33,34,42,43,46} (Fig. 1a/1e and 1f), is
207 as the product of Froude supercritical flow in dilute PDCs^{33,38,42,43,46,59-61}. We have
208 demonstrated that this interpretation can be incorrect, and that similar features can form in
209 dense granular flows in both Froude subcritical and supercritical conditions.

210 As the sediment deposit which triggered the jump grows in thickness, a critical point is
211 reached where the incoming flow cannot surpass the negative slope, and the jump propagates
212 upstream as a granular bore⁵⁷. An interesting feature seen in the granular jump of Boudet et
213 al.⁵⁶ and our own currents is the steepening well beyond the repose angle at the front of the
214 granular jump/bore, and its collapse by avalanching (Fig. 8d). This is likely caused by rapid
215 deposition from the incoming flow countering the effects of gravity sliding, and allowing the
216 bedforms to steepen well beyond repose angle. The particles deposited by the current as the
217 deposit front steepens form our steep regressive dune bedforms, with stoss angles up to 90°.

218 Calculated N_S and N_B numbers indicate that planar beds are deposited under conditions closer
219 to a collision-dominated flow regime ($N_S > 0.1$ and $N_B > 540$ ⁶²) than the regressive dune
220 bedforms (Supplementary Table 1). The planar bed deposition occurs beyond the transition to
221 the unfluidised section of flume, and therefore they are deposited by a current which is
222 experiencing more collisions between particles due to the loss of gas pore pressure. The
223 regressive dune bedforms are deposited closer to this transition point, where the current has a
224 higher gas pore pressure and grain collisions are not as prevalent. A ratio of N_B to N_S shows
225 that frictional stresses are considerably higher than viscous shear stresses in the area of the
226 currents depositing steep regressive dune bedforms (Fig. 4d). As the current is waning at this
227 point and relatively thick, this could result in sustained contacts between particles despite
228 relatively high gas pore pressures.

229 The occurrence of dune bedforms in the Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite supports the
230 experimental supposition that dune bedforms within PDC deposits, hitherto interpreted as
231 been laid down by dilute turbulent PDCs, can be formed by dense granular currents
232 undergoing rapid sedimentation and deceleration. In our experiments, the cessation of basal
233 gas injection and the resulting decrease in pore pressure results in rapid sedimentation; and
234 the steep stoss-sided dune bedforms are created in a waning flow regime. Giordano &

235 Doronzo⁵⁵ interpret the parent PDC in this sector as waning, experiencing rapid
236 sedimentation and a reduction in the lateral mass discharge rate.

237 We propose a depositional model whereby symmetrical, upstream migrating dune bedforms
238 are deposited by supercritical flow, forming a topographic irregularity which drastically
239 slows the incoming current (Fig. 9a-b), forming a granular jump and promoting rapid
240 deposition (Fig. 9c). Continued deposition steepens the front of the jump until it collapses
241 upstream by avalanching (Fig. 9d-e).

242 The triggering of initial deposition in the experiments is related to the transition of the current
243 into a non-aerated (or significantly less aerated) chamber of the flume, and the consequent
244 increase in frictional forces between particles. This is not intended to represent a specific
245 natural process but rather simulate the rapid de-aeration we know can occur in natural PDCs
246 as a result of various processes such as loss of fines or temperature drops, thinning, and/or the
247 entrainment of courser material^{20,23,63}. The initial de-aeration would be accelerated by the
248 slowing current (decreasing shear rates), and increasing inter-particle frictional forces. The
249 formation of a granular jump within the depositing current is related to the blocking of the
250 flow by the aggrading deposit; a process that could be exacerbated by pre-existing
251 topography⁵⁸.

252 Deposition from our experimental granular currents is triggered by rapid defluidisation, and
253 results in the formation of sedimentary structures which we class (in order of reducing
254 velocity) as: planar beds, shallow regressive dune bedforms, and steep regressive dune
255 bedforms, each of which can be categorised by dune bedform phase diagrams.

256 We find that the steep regressive dune bedforms are recording the upstream migration of a
257 granular bore, which is caused by interaction of the current with aggrading deposit. The
258 waning nature of the incoming flow at this point, and its relatively low Froude numbers

259 suggests that while most of these steep regressive dune bedforms are technically recording
260 supercritical flow, both the shallow regressive dune bedforms and planar beds are formed
261 under increasingly supercritical conditions. It follows that shallow regressive dune bedforms
262 and planar beds may then be better indicators of supercritical flow conditions when
263 interpreting dense PDC deposits. The proposed phase diagrams presented here are a major
264 step towards quantitative links between PDC processes and their deposits.

265 Dune bedforms can be the product of a dense granular flow and can form without any
266 interference (e.g. tractional shear) from an overlying dilute turbulent layer. As the presence of
267 dune bedforms has been commonly used as diagnostic evidence for dilute, turbulent currents,
268 our findings have important implications for field interpretation – as different types of PDCs
269 can react differently to topography the correct classification is necessary for hazard
270 assessment. Other sedimentary characteristics such as grain size and sorting must be used in
271 order to distinguish between the two PDC end-members. This challenge to the interpretation
272 of the deposits of particulate granular currents is particularly relevant to other free-surface
273 granular mass flows, including landslides, snow avalanches, and debris flows.

274 **METHODS**

275 **Flume set-up**

276 We use the experimental flume of Smith et al.²⁷, modified so that release of the particulate
277 density current is controlled by a trapdoor instead of a horizontal lock gate (Fig. 10), such
278 that colour stratification in the starting charge transmits to the flow and deposit. The base of
279 the flume comprises one-meter long sections which can provide independently controlled gas
280 fluxes through a porous baseplate in each section in order to fluidise any overpassing
281 material. The flume was kept at an angle of 2°, to promote flow away from the impingement
282 surface while maintaining a sub-horizontal surface.

283 The air-supply plumbing allows a gas flux to be fed through the base of the flume, producing
284 sustained aeration of the current. In such thin (<0.03 m), rapidly degassing laboratory
285 currents, this enables us to simulate the long-lived high gas pore pressures that characterize
286 thicker PDCs^{19,27}. The gas flux supplied through the base in each of the three sections of the
287 channel was controlled to vary the aeration state of the currents, all of which were below
288 minimum fluidisation velocity (U_{mf}), as complete fluidisation would result in non-
289 deposition¹⁸.

290 Various aeration states were used to trigger different flow behaviours. The first chamber
291 (0.66 - $0.93 U_{mf}$) always had higher gas flux than the second chamber (0 - $0.66 U_{mf}$) to trigger
292 deposition in the target area of the flume. The experiments were recorded using high-speed
293 video at 200 frames per second. This video recorded a side-wall area of the channel at 1 m
294 runout (across the contact between the first and second gas supply chambers), allowing for
295 measurement of the flow conditions.

296 **Experimental material**

297 The experiments were performed using spherical soda lime ballotini with grain sizes of 45-90
298 μm (average $D_{32} = 63.4 \mu\text{m}$ calculated from six samples across the material batch) similar to
299 the particles used in previous experimental granular currents^{15,17,19}. These ballotini belong to
300 the Group A classification of Geldart⁶⁴, comprising particles 45-90 μm which expand
301 homogeneously above U_{mf} until bubbles form. As PDCs contain dominantly Group A
302 particles, this allows dynamic similarity between the natural and experimental currents⁸.
303 Detailed mechanical properties of the ballotini are presented in Supplementary Table 2,
304 derived from rotating drum⁶⁵ and shearbox (BS 1377-7:1990) testing. These give cohesion
305 values of 0 kPa, and an internal friction angle of 25.3° (Supplementary Fig. 3). Static

306 minimum (Θ_{Smin}), maximum (Θ_{Smax}) and dynamic (Θ_{Dyn}) angles of repose are found to be
307 of 11.7°, 31.9° and 20.9° respectively (Supplementary Fig. 2).

308 Due to the monodisperse nature of the materials, any internal structure is easily masked by
309 lack of contrast between packages of sediment⁶⁶. To this end the charge for each experiment
310 was built up of layers of dyed beads so that flow packages could be tracked throughout flow
311 and deposition, as used in Rowley et al.¹⁹.

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464

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470 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

471 GS carried out experimental work and drafted manuscript. GS, PR, GG, MT, and AS carried
472 out fieldwork. GS, PR, and RW analysed experimental data. GS, PR, RW, GG, MT, AS, and
473 DP discussed results and edited/commented on the manuscript. Characterisation of the
474 experimental materials was led by SC.

475 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

476 The authors declare no competing interests.

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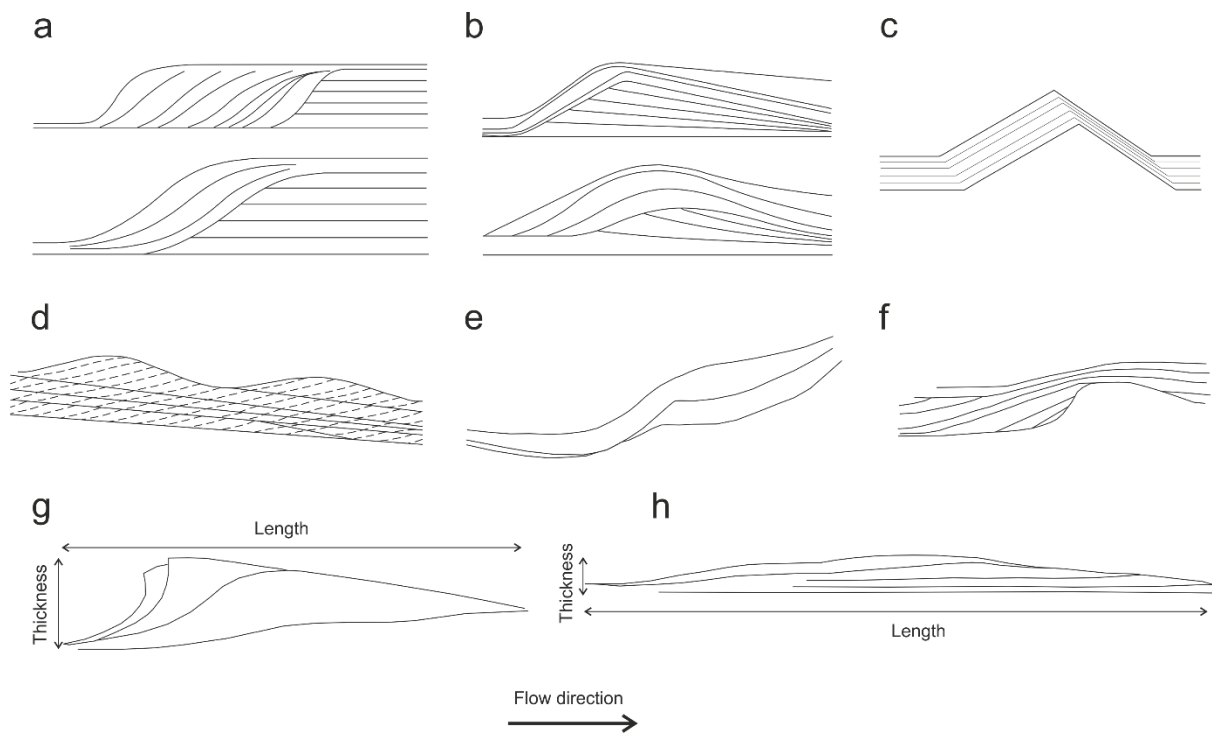
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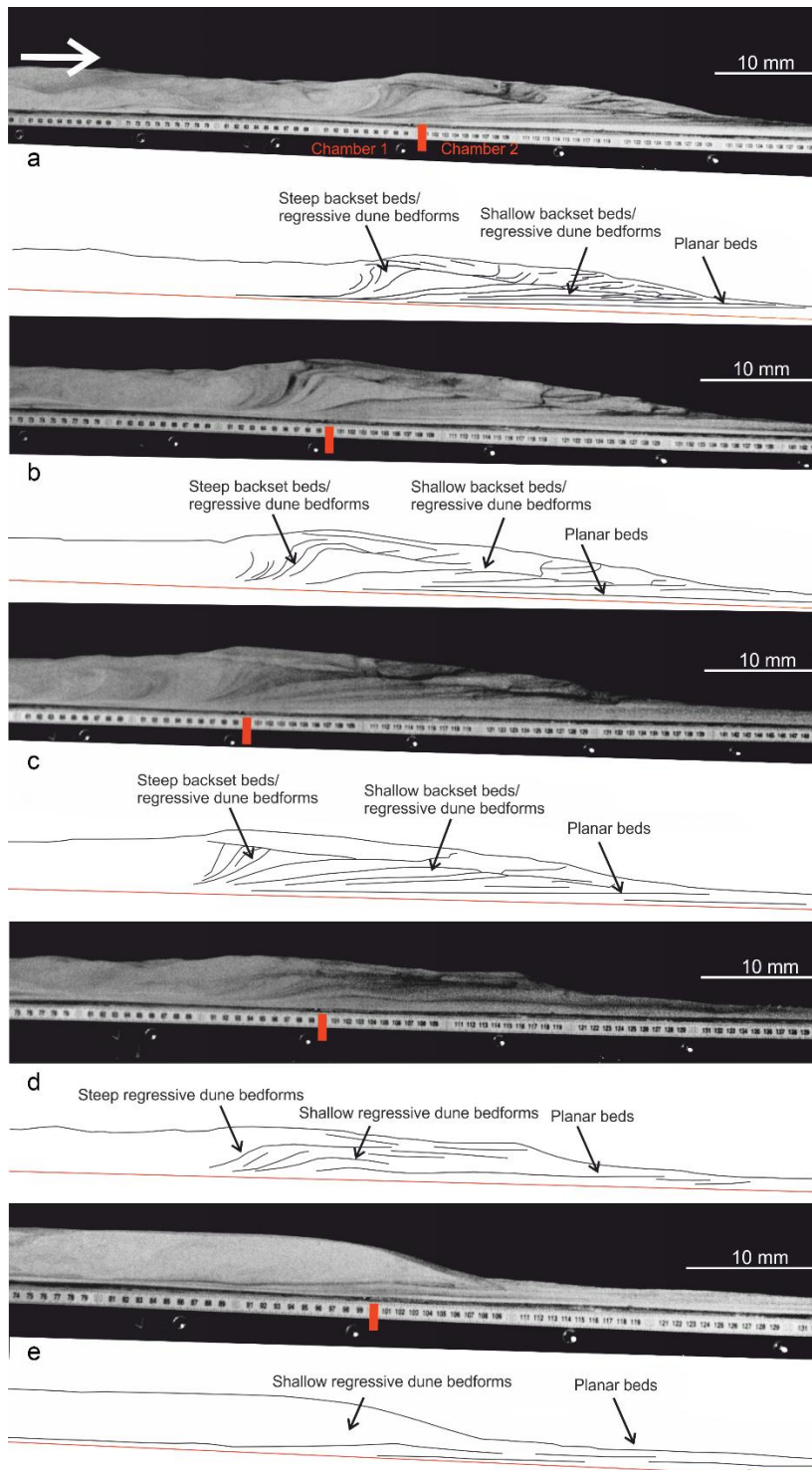
486 FIGURES & CAPTIONS



487

488 Fig. 1. Examples of dune bedforms deposited by various flow types. **a** Idealised chute-and-489 pool structures in dilute PDC deposits at Laacher See³³. **b** Idealised antidunes in dilute PDC490 deposits at Laacher See³³. **c** Idealised regressive dune bedform³⁵. **d** Idealised stable491 antidunes⁴¹. **e** Regressive dune bedform from the Proximal Bedded Deposits at Mt St492 Helens⁴⁶. **f** Idealised fluvial chute-and-pool structure⁶⁷. **g** Steep stoss side regressive dune

493 bedform as described in this paper, showing length and thickness definitions. **h** Shallow stoss
 494 side dune bedform as described in this paper.

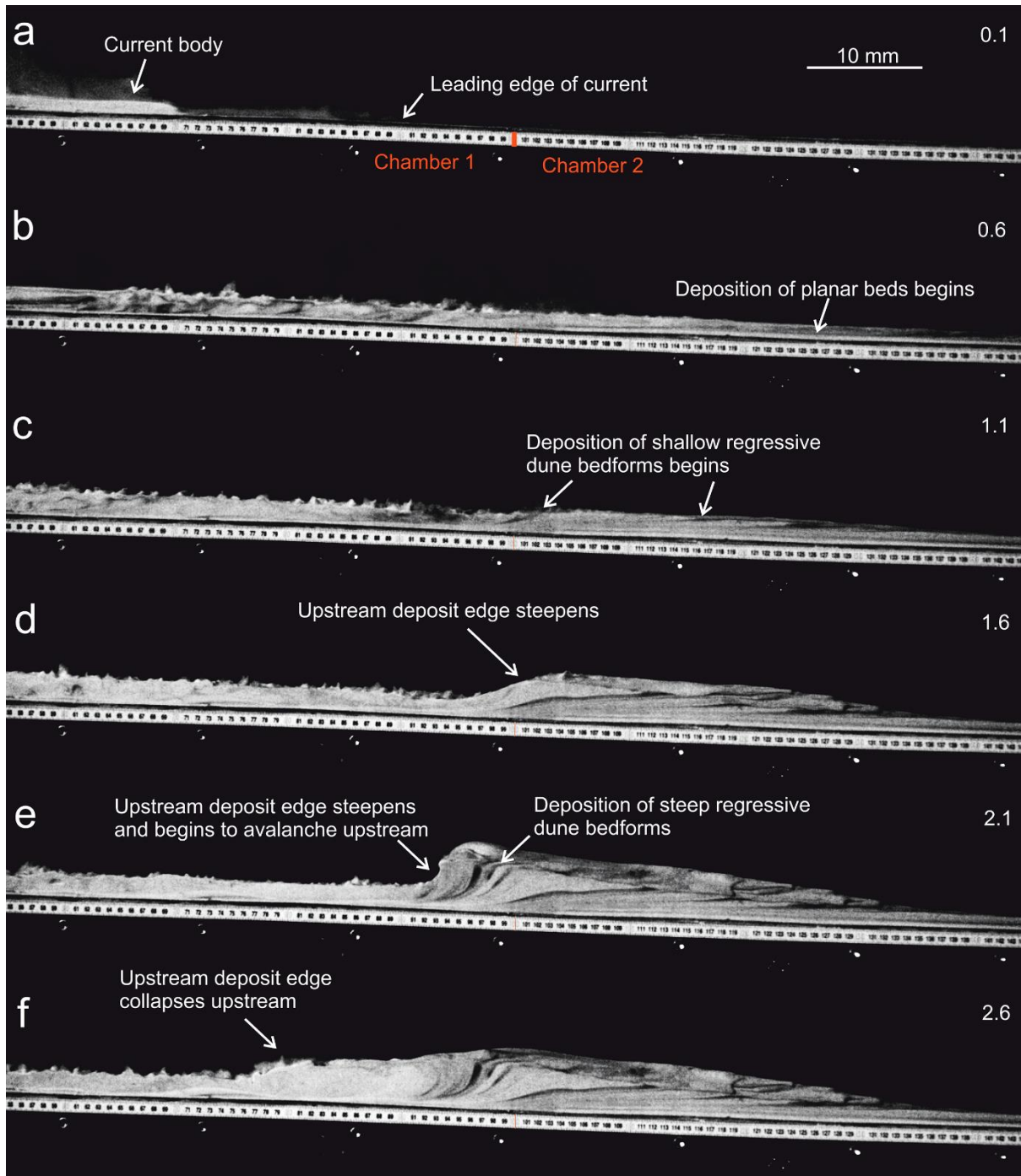


495

496 Fig. 2. Deposits from five separate experimental runs. **a**, **b**, **c** show dune bedforms deposited

497 by currents passing above a chamber aerated at $0.93 U_{mf}$ to one unaerated. **d** shows dune

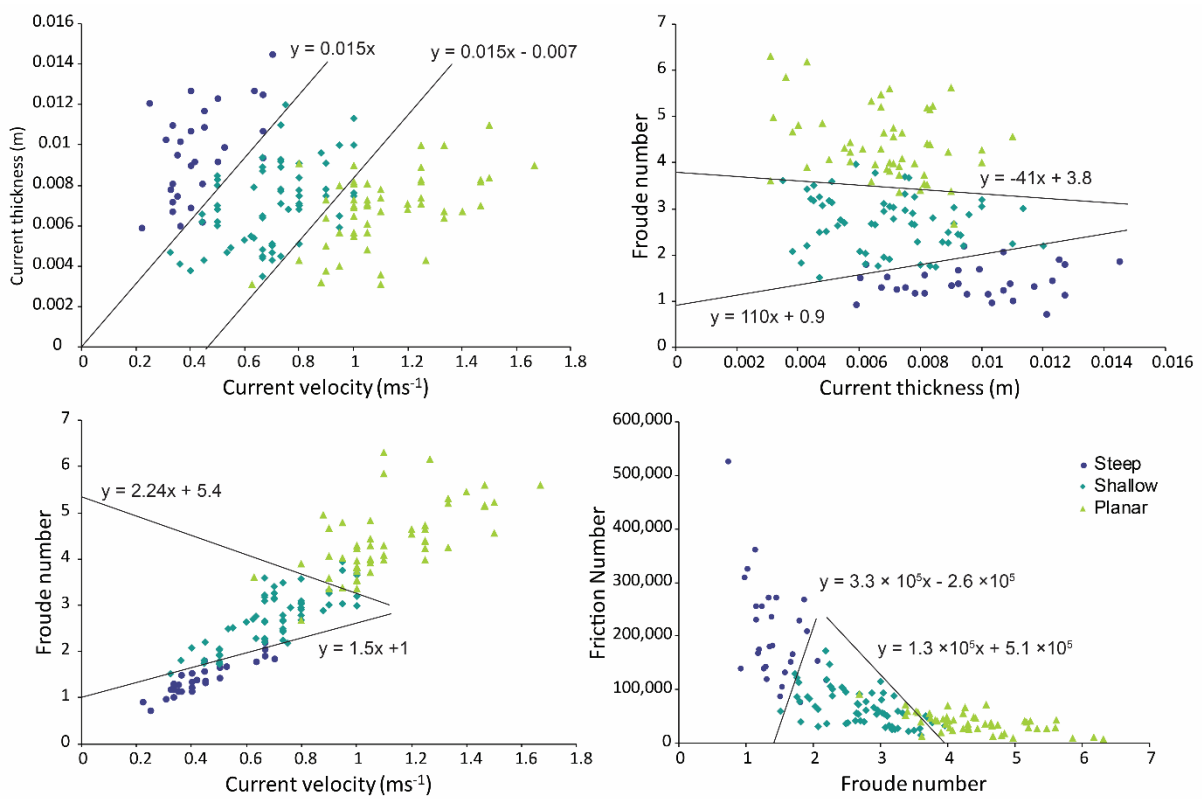
498 bedforms deposited by a current passing above a chamber aerated at $0.93 U_{mf}$ to one aerated
 499 at $0.66 U_{mf}$. **e** shows dune bedforms deposited by a current passing above a chamber aerated
 500 at $0.66 U_{mf}$ to one aerated at $0.53 U_{mf}$.



501

502 Fig. 3. Timelapse of an experimental granular current. Deposition of dune bedforms is
 503 triggered by the current passing above a chamber aerated at $0.93 U_{mf}$ to one unaerated.

504 Number in the top right of the frames is the time in seconds since the current entered the first
 505 frame.

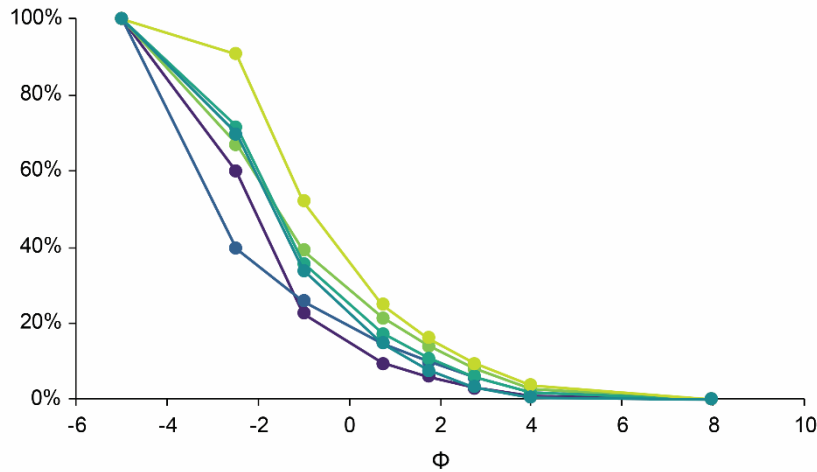


506

507 Fig. 4. Phase diagrams showing the current conditions which control dune bedform
 508 formation, with plausible phase boundaries. **a** Velocity vs. thickness. **b** Velocity vs. Froude
 509 number. **c** Thickness vs. Froude number. **d** Friction number vs. Froude number.

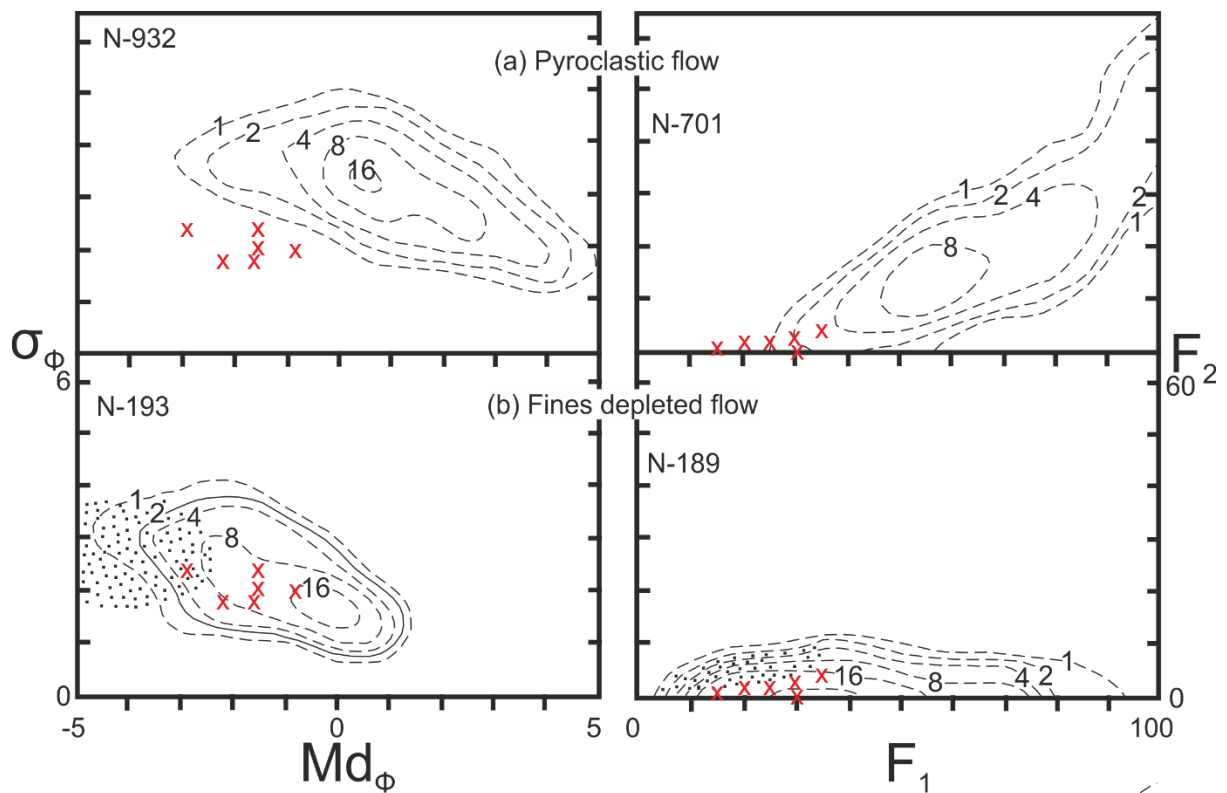
510 Representative ($n = 20$) error bars are located in the bottom right of each image ($\pm 2\sigma$).

511



512

513 Fig. 5. Grain size distribution curves for six samples from the Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite.

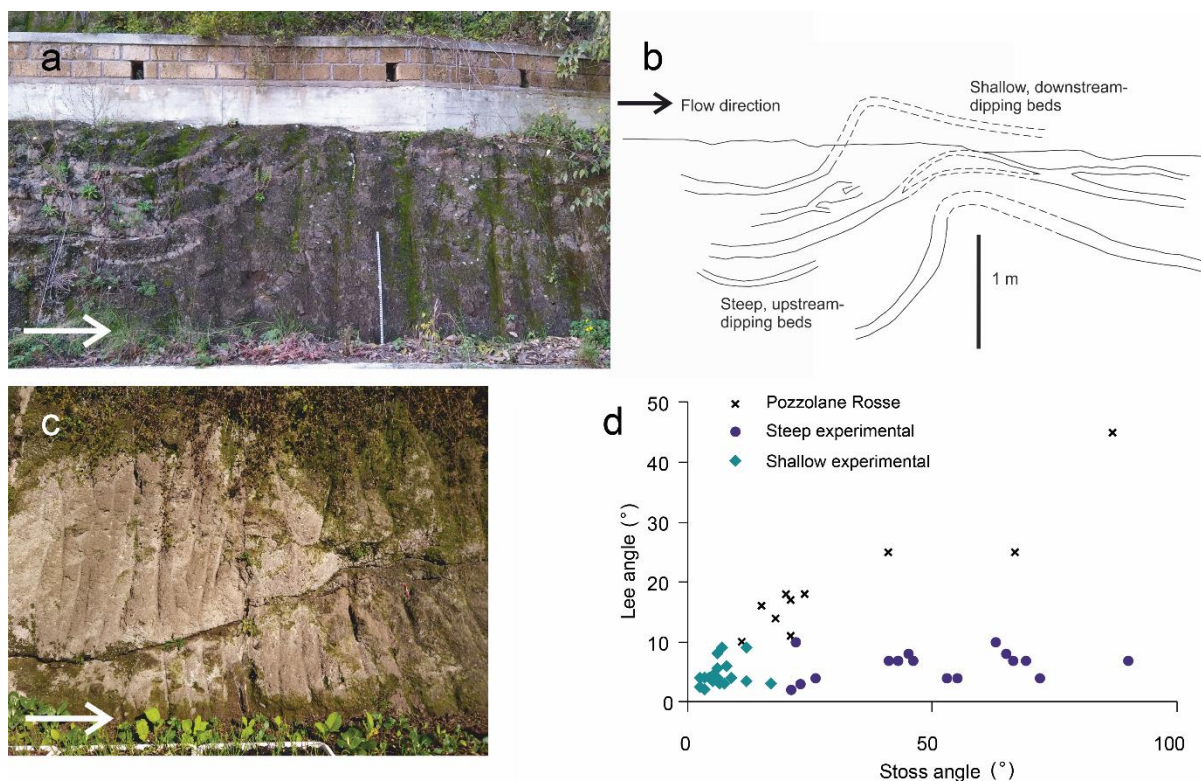
514 Note the domination by coarse grains and depletion in the $<63 \mu\text{m}$ (4ϕ) fraction.

515

516 Fig. 6. Plots of $Md\phi/\sigma\phi$ and of weight percentage finer than $63 \mu\text{m}$ (F_2) versus weight517 percentage finer than 1 mm (F_1), after Walker³⁵. **b** includes deposits such as ground layers,

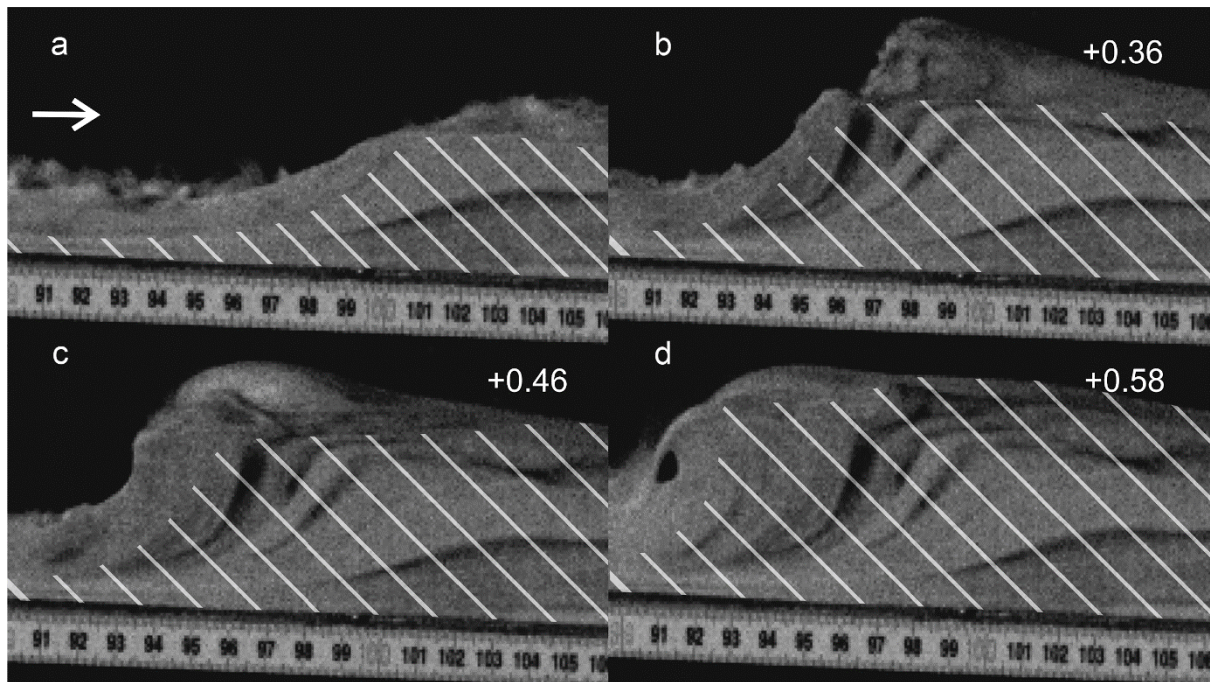
518 fine-depleted ignimbrites, and gas elutriation pipes. Dotted area contains lithic lag breccias.

519 Red crosses show the position of the Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite samples. See also Giordano
 520 and Dobran⁵⁹.



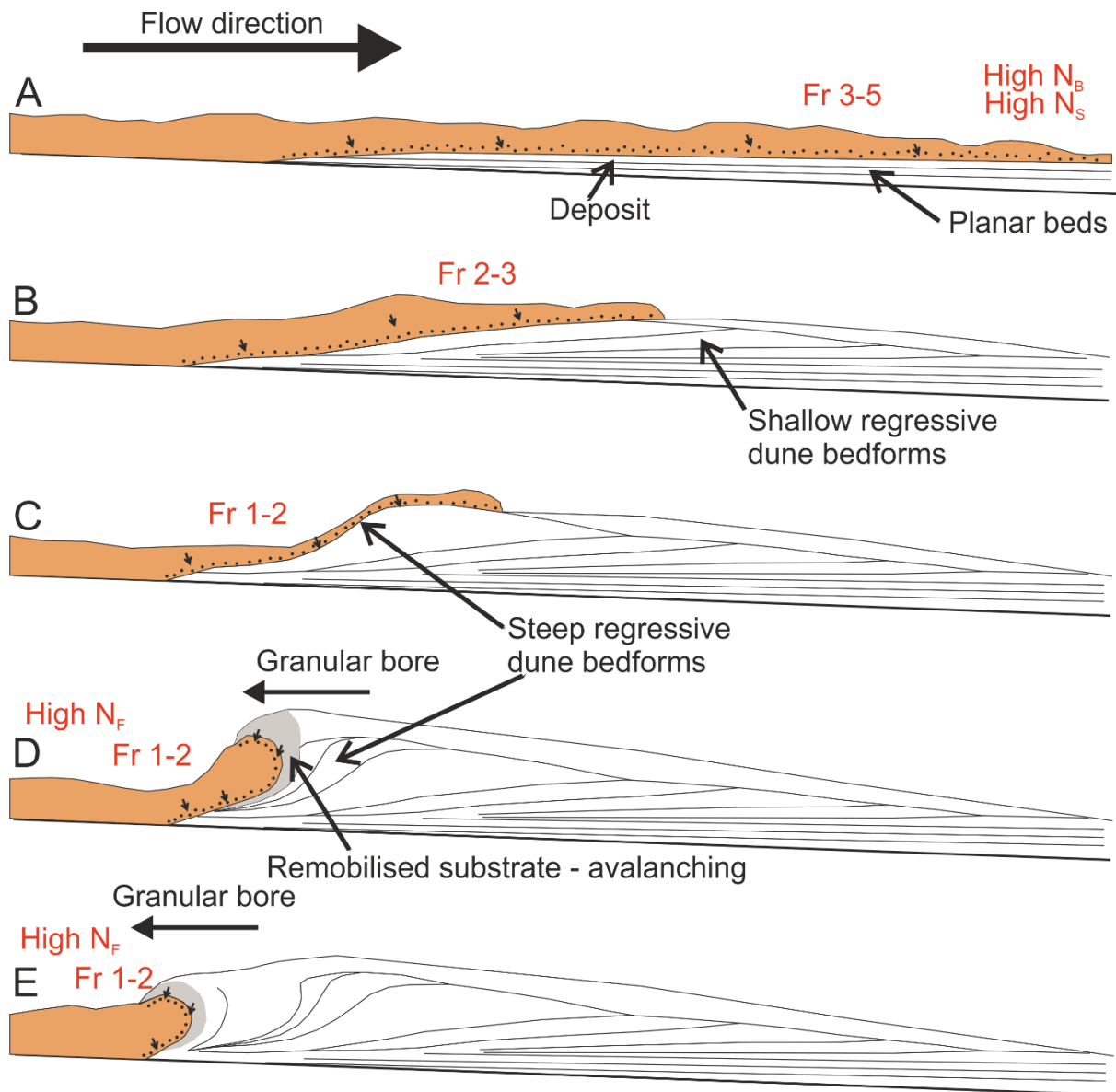
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522 Fig. 7. Field photos and data of the Pozzolane Rosse ignimbrite erupted from Colli Albani,
 523 Italy. Flow direction left to right. Coordinates are for UTM 33T grid. **a** steep stoss side dune
 524 bedform at 322848 4639168 (ruler 1 m) **b** annotated sketch of the bedform showing the
 525 difference in angle between the stoss and lee beds **c** shallow stoss side dune bedform at
 526 333920 4623281 (pen below crest is 0.15 m) **d** shows that several of these dune bedforms
 527 have similar stoss angles to our experimental features, however the lee angles are much
 528 steeper.



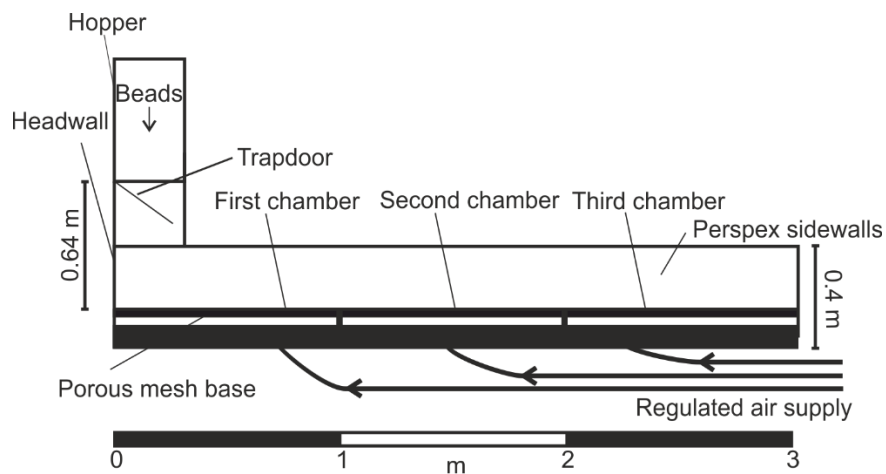
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530 Fig. 8. The formation and evolution of a granular jump. Numbers in the top right are seconds
 531 passed since the first frame. Shaded area shows stationary deposit. Flow direction left to
 532 right. **a** shows the initial formation of a steepening bump. **b** shows the upstream migration
 533 and further steepening of the jump, which has two separate fronts separated by a shelf. **c** The
 534 upper front has collapsed, and the lower front is vertical. **d** The lower front of the jump
 535 collapses upstream by avalanching.



536

537 Fig. 9. Schematic showing how different dune bedforms could be deposited by a PDC. Flow
 538 properties in red (Fr , N_S , N_B , N_F) refer to the Froude, Savage, Bagnold, and Friction Numbers
 539 respectively.



540

541 Fig. 10. A longitudinal section view of the experimental flume.