



STUDIES ON LAVA CAVES DURING THE PAST CENTURIES

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Summary

This paper scours the evolution of the scientific thought dealing with volcanic caves. This aim will be achieved taking into account studies carried out mainly on Etna caves in the past centuries by several scholars. The main result is that, thanks to Hamilton's and Dolomieu's studies, the watershed between two different approach methods to the study on volcanic caves, and to their role in the general framework of volcanic phenomena, is to be placed at the end of the XVIII century.