



HAL
open science

Glacier mass balance reconstruction by sublimation induced enrichment of chemical species on Cerro Tapado (Chilean Andes)

P. Ginot, C. Kull, U. Schotterer, M. Schwikowski, H. W. Gäggeler

► To cite this version:

P. Ginot, C. Kull, U. Schotterer, M. Schwikowski, H. W. Gäggeler. Glacier mass balance reconstruction by sublimation induced enrichment of chemical species on Cerro Tapado (Chilean Andes). *Climate of the Past Discussions*, 2005, 1 (2), pp.169-192. hal-00298115

HAL Id: hal-00298115

<https://hal.science/hal-00298115>

Submitted on 18 Jun 2008

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Cerro Tapado ice
core

P. Ginot et al.

Glacier mass balance reconstruction by sublimation induced enrichment of chemical species on Cerro Tapado (Chilean Andes)

P. Ginot^{1,2}, C. Kull³, U. Schotterer^{1,4}, M. Schwikowski², and H. W. Gäggeler^{1,2}

¹Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Bern, Freiestrasse 3, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

²Paul Scherrer Institute, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland

³PAGES International Project Office, Sulgeneckstrasse 38, 3007 Bern, Switzerland

⁴Physics Institute, University of Bern, Sidlerstrasse 5, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

Received: 8 September 2005 – Accepted: 16 September 2005 – Published: 22 September 2005

Correspondence to: P. Ginot (ginot@lgge.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr)

© 2005 Author(s). This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Abstract

A 36 m long ice core down to bedrock from the Cerro Tapado glacier (5536 m a.s.l., 30°08' S, 69°55' W) was analyzed to reconstruct past climatic conditions for Northern Chile. Because of the marked seasonality in the precipitation (short wet winter and extended dry summer periods) in this region, major snow ablation and related post-depositional processes occur on the glacier surface during summer periods. They include predominantly sublimation and dry deposition. Under certain assumptions the chemical record along the ice core may be applied to reconstruct the history of such secondary processes. For the time period 1962–1999, a mean annual net accumulation of 316 mm water equivalent (weq) and 327 mm weq loss by sublimation was deduced by this method. This corresponds to an initial total annual accumulation of 539 mm weq. The annual variability of the accumulation and sublimation may exhibit a correlation with the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI). The deepest part of the ice record shows a time discontinuity; its age is unknown.

1. Introduction

In order to determine the mass balance of a glacier, net accumulation consisting of accumulation and ablation of a given hydrological year is usually measured using a network of stakes and/or snow pits. This method has been used e.g. in the Alps to reconstruct mass balance over several decades, but it requires regular field measurements. In the South American Andes, the mass balances of some glaciers such as the Zongo glacier (16°15' S, 68°10' W) and Echaurren Norte (33°35' S, 70°08' W) have been monitored since 1991 and 1975, respectively (see e.g. Francou et al., 2000, 2003; Escobar et al., 1995), but this time period is not sufficiently long to allow paleoclimatic interpretation. Ice cores may be applied for this purpose. In addition, they provide information on past meteorological conditions, climate change and atmospheric composition (e.g. Bradley, 1999). Over the last two decades, several South-American

CPD

1, 169–192, 2005

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

glaciers and associated ice cores have been investigated, including Quelccaya (Peru) (e.g. Thompson et al., 1985), Huascarán (Peru) (e.g. Thompson et al., 1995), Sajama (Bolivia) (Thompson et al., 1998) and Illimani (Bolivia) (Knüsel et al., 2003; De Angelis et al., 2003; Correia et al., 2003).

5 In this study, an ice core from Cerro Tapado glacier (5536 m a.s.l., 30°08' S, 69°55' W, Fig. 1), was investigated in order to reconstruct the history of this glacier's mass balance. Cerro Tapado is located in the Norte Chico region of Chile, near the southern boundary of the "South American Arid Diagonal". This glacier represents a unique archive for paleoclimatic reconstruction in this otherwise unglaciated high mountain area. However, the Cerro Tapado record indicates that interpretation of ice cores re-
10 trieved in such dry areas is not straightforward because large sublimation losses influence the mass balance and the record of trace species.

The climate of this part of the South American continent is primarily driven by the Pacific. On the western side of the Andes, south of 18° S, the precipitation at
15 4000 m a.s.l. increases from north to south, reaching values of about 400 mm y⁻¹ at 30° S (Escobar and Aceituno, 1998). Table 1 presents the modern climatic conditions on Cerro Tapado. Winter precipitation (MJJA) related to Pacific cyclone activity is dominant. The summer months (SONDJFM) are relatively dry, although sporadically interrupted by convective showers from the continental eastern side of the Andes (Begert,
20 1999; Escobar and Aceituno, 1998). The modern climatic conditions and the strong N-S precipitation gradient allow the presence of isolated glaciers only south of 27° S, where the Equilibrium Line Altitudes (ELA) decrease from 5900 m a.s.l. at 27° S to 5300 m a.s.l. at 30° S and to 4500 m a.s.l. at 32° S (e.g. Amman et al., 2001). The Cerro Tapado glacier flows down from the summit (5536 m a.s.l.) to 4600 m a.s.l. and
25 exists under limiting moisture conditions (see picture in Fig. 1). Higher peaks adjacent to Cerro Tapado, such as Cerro Olivares (6252 m a.s.l., 30°17' S, 69°54' W), are currently free of glaciers, suggesting that some of the existing glaciers are atypical in this area and that local conditions (e.g. excess precipitation, wind transport, topography) play an important role (Kull et al., 2002).

Cerro Tapado ice coreP. Ginot et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Cerro Tapado ice coreP. Ginot et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

During the dry season, effects of post depositional processes, such as sublimation of surface snow, volatilization of some chemical species, and dry deposition of mineral particles (Ginot et al., 2001a; Hardy et al., 2001) significantly perturb the chemical composition of surface snow. In addition, the percolation of surface meltwater may alter the snow composition (e.g. Hou et al., 2002; Schotterer et al., 2005). By means of a surface snow experiment performed during the dry season on Cerro Tapado, Ginot et al. (2001a) demonstrated that chemical species irreversibly trapped in the snow are significantly enriched in the surface layer by sublimation of the water matrix and by dry deposition. Species present in a volatile form were partially released from the snow. This experiment also revealed that the concentration of certain chemical species in the surface snow layer is directly proportional to the amount of water lost by sublimation. In the case of Cerro Tapado, the best tracer for the reconstruction of sublimation turned out to be chloride.

This relation allows reconstructing the original mass balance from the trace species concentration record. Further, the temporal variation of the deduced mass balance may contain a climatic signal influenced by El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in this region.

2. Experimental

In February 1999, a 36 m long ice core (27.87 m weq) was recovered from the Cerro Tapado glacier with the FELICS solar-powered electromechanical ice drill (Ginot et al., 2002). The core reached bed rock. All ice core segments were kept frozen until they were analyzed. Englacial temperatures were measured in the borehole using a thermistor chain. Between February 1998 and February 2000, an automated weather station installed near the Cerro Tapado base camp (4215 m a.s.l., 30°08' S, 69°55' W) measured incoming global radiation, wind speed, humidity and temperature. A second station was operated on the summit plateau of the glacier at 5500 m a.s.l. during the ice-coring campaign in February 1999 (Ginot et al., 2001a; Kull et al., 2002; Stichler et

al., 2001).

The ice core was cut into 1901 samples (~ 1.9 cm resolution) in a cold room and analyzed for concentrations of major ions (Na^+ , K^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , NH_4^+ , SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , Cl^- , CH_3SO_3^- , F^- , HCO_2^- , CH_3CO_2^- , $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$) (see e.g. Ginot et al., 2001a), pH, conductivity and stable isotopes ($\delta^2\text{H}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$). Firn/ice density was measured for each 70 cm long core segment.

3. Results

The annual mean temperature recorded between 1998 and 2000 at 4215 m a.s.l. was -0.4°C . Table 1 presents annual means, annual amplitude, daily amplitude and lapse rates of all measured meteorological parameters (temperature, precipitation, radiation, wind speed, relative humidity, and cloudiness).

An ice core stratigraphy with major ice lenses, dust layers and the shape of the air bubbles is illustrated in Fig. 2, together with selected ion concentration profiles (Cl^- , NO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} , Ca^{2+}) and the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record. The borehole temperatures ranged from -8.6°C (1 m depth) to -12.4°C (bedrock), see Fig. 3. The low glacier temperature suggests a good preservation of the chemical and isotopic profiles without major disturbances due to meltwater percolation. The basal temperature indicates that the deepest ice is frozen to bedrock. The firn/ice density profile (Fig. 3) exhibits strong and unusual variations. Only for some core segments consisting mainly of firn (white squares in Fig. 3) does the density profile agree well with the predicted values obtained from a firn densification model (Herron and Langway, 1980) (black line in Fig. 3, details in Sect. 3.1.3). The core segments containing ice lenses (black circles in Fig. 3) have significant positive density anomalies.

For the ice core dating, a combination of several conventional dating methods was used (identification of tritium horizon, annual layer counting, ^{210}Pb decay) (e.g. Eichler et al., 2000). The peak of the tritium activity, which in the Southern hemisphere oc-

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

curred during the years 1965/1966 (Schotterer et al., 1998), was found between 10.68 and 10.77 m water equivalent (m weq) depth. This reference horizon yields a mean annual net-accumulation of 315 mm weq y^{-1} . Between 1963 and 1999, a seasonal (wet-dry seasons) dating resolution is achieved, based on a selective combination of annual variations of the tritium activity (1963–1970), some chemical species (NO_3^{2-} , Ca^{2+}) and $\delta^{18}O$ (Ginot et al., 2001b). The concentration peaks of ions were attributed to the dry season (September to March) when sublimation increases the concentration of some conservative ions in the surface snow layers (Ginot et al., 2001a). Sublimation also influences the stable isotope profiles (Stichler et al., 2001). The wet seasons (April to August) are identified by lower ion concentrations due to much less sublimation. With only two reference horizons (surface and tritium maximum), the precision of the dating decreases to ± 2 years for the period 1967–1977. For the deeper part of the record, we try to use the dating method based on ^{210}Pb activity decay but without success. ^{210}Pb activity decreases from 71 mBq kg^{-1} at the surface to a mean background level of approx 3.4 mBq kg^{-1} at ~ 21 m weq, hence covering a time range of about one century due to the half-life of 22.3 y for ^{210}Pb . The background level reflects the blank value of the procedure, and was subtracted from the values for the determination of the depth-age relation. With these parameters, the age based on ^{210}Pb was 1927 for the well defined 1965 tritium level. Deeper than the tritium reference level, only annual layers counting method was used for dating but with some uncertainty.

3.1. Mass balance reconstruction

3.1.1. Net-accumulation

Annual net-accumulation is the quantity of snow preserved during the hydrological year, from beginning of the wet season to the end of the following dry season (March to February). It is determined by identifying annual layers, as explained above for the period 1963 to 1999. For the lower part only multi annual means can be given, calculated for intervals, each 1 m weq long. Table 2 and Fig. 4A (top) summarize the results. For

the period 1963–1999, the annual net-accumulation rate fluctuates between 102 (in 1980) and 1032 mm weq (in 1966) with a mean value of 316 mm weq.

3.1.2. Sublimation

As mentioned above, some ions are irreversibly trapped in the snow, resulting in a significantly enriched surface layer due to sublimation of the water matrix (Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , and K^+) (Ginot et al., 2001a). In the Cerro Tapado record, chloride seems to be the best tracer of sublimation since the increase of chloride concentration in the surface snow layer is proportional to the water loss by sublimation and is not affected by dry deposition of sea salt. The amount of water lost by sublimation may thus be quantified from the chloride enrichment in each annual surface layer formed during the dry season. Assuming that only the upper snow layers are exposed to post-depositional processes, the deeper snow should keep its original composition. In order to obtain the mean concentration of chloride in fresh snow (not influenced by sublimation), we calculated the concentration frequency distribution of all ice core samples (1901 samples divided in 25 bins on a logarithmic scale).

Figure 5 illustrates the resulting frequency distributions of the three ions chloride, formate and calcium, which are influenced differently by sublimation (Ginot et al., 2001a). Formate forms volatile formic acid and is not enriched by sublimation. Consequently a mono-modal distribution is observed, representing the initial concentrations in fresh snow. Chloride is enriched in the surface layer by sublimation and shows a broader distribution with a bi-modal shape. The mode at $50 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ represents the concentrations in fresh snow, whereas the mode at $145 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ is due post-depositional enrichment. The distribution of calcium is even broader and has a third mode, which we attribute to dry deposition (Ginot et al., 2001a).

Accordingly, chloride concentrations higher than the fresh snow level of $50 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ were considered to result from enrichment by sublimation. With this assumption annual sublimation rates could be calculated from the chloride concentration record.

Figure 4 depicts the obtained mass balance terms on a temporal scale: Fig. 4A,

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

lower part, shows annual sublimation, which fluctuates between 1 and 1237 mm weq with a mean annual value of 327 mm weq between 1962 and 1999. The upper part of Fig. 4B illustrates annual total accumulation, being the sum of net accumulation and sublimation, annual data for the period 1963–1999, and annual mean over 3–6 years before. A mean annual total accumulation rate of 539 mm weq is obtained for 1999–1962. During some hydrological years such as 1981, sublimation yields to a loss of 84% of the total accumulation. For other years, this ablation is a few percent only. The mean annual ablation due to sublimation amounts to 46% for the period 1962–1999.

In order to validate this method of sublimation reconstruction, the measured ^{210}Pb activity profile was corrected for sublimation. ^{210}Pb in the atmosphere is usually attached to fine aerosol particles and is therefore deposited onto the glacier during snowfall, whereas the contribution of dry deposition is negligible. Since ^{210}Pb cannot be volatilized after deposition, a similar enrichment due to sublimation as observed for chloride is expected. Strong fluctuations of the ^{210}Pb activity with depth indicate that this is indeed the case (Fig. 6A).

The effect of the sublimation on ^{210}Pb activity was corrected using the sublimation estimates deduced from the chloride record. The resulting raw profile is illustrated in Fig. 6B. The total depth increased from 27.8 m weq net-accumulation to 78 m weq total accumulation. Indeed, most of the pronounced peaks from the primary data (Fig. 6A) are now removed, which supports the assumptions made. At 36 m weq the corrected activity drops from 3 mBq kg^{-1} to a level of about $0,7\text{ mBq kg}^{-1}$. This value was assumed as background level and subtracted. The linear regression of the logarithmic corrected ^{210}Pb activity yields a y-axis intercept of $A_{0\text{corr}}=34\text{ mBq kg}^{-1}$ and an annual total accumulation of 465 mm weq, in reasonable agreement with the values listed in Table 2. The drop at 36 m corresponds to a time lapse of at least 35 years.

3.1.3. Melting

The firn/ice temperature of $\leq -8.5^\circ\text{C}$ throughout the core (see Fig. 3) allows surface meltwater to percolate only a few centimeters before refreezing in sub-surface ice lay-

ers (“re-crystallization zone”). Thus, melting is not an important ablation process, but is nevertheless important for the energy balance. The firn densification model by Herron and Langway (1980), based on a firn temperature of -12°C at 10 m depth and mean annual net-accumulation of $315 \text{ mm weq y}^{-1}$, served to describe the metamorphosis of snow to ice up to a firn density of 0.8 g cm^{-3} . As shown in Fig. 3, the measured density is often higher than modeled as a result of sub-surface re-crystallization. Surface melting was estimated for each core segment ($\sim 70 \text{ cm}$ ice core). A mean annual melt of 40 mm was deduced for the period 1962–1999 and 33 mm for the lower part. The large difference between mean annual sublimation and melting is caused by short positive temperature periods responsible for melting and extended time periods where climatic conditions favor sublimation (vapor pressure deficit, global radiation and wind speeds) (Vuille, 1996; Kull and Grosjean, 2000).

3.2. Climate parameter reconstruction for the modern period: 1920–1999

The resulting annual mass balance parameters were compared with the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) and with extrapolated annual precipitation. The SOI characterizes the cold (positive values, La Niña) and warm phases (negative values, El Niño) of the El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO). In Fig. 4A, annual net-accumulation and sublimation are compared with the annual mean values (March to March) of the monthly SOI data (source: Commonwealth, Bureau of Meteorology). 70% of the above average annual net-accumulation values (average 316 mm weq from 1962–1999) correspond to wet phases of ENSO (indicated by arrows in the WET window). On the opposite, only 50% of above average 327 mm sublimation events correspond to ENSO dry phases (indicated by arrows in the DRY window). In addition, high annual net-accumulation values are generally associated with lower sublimation and vice versa. These results support the interpretation that the precipitation regime and climatic conditions in the region of Cerro Tapado are strongly influenced by the Westerlies circulation regime with higher total-accumulation during El Niño years, but that during La Niña dry phases, eastern moisture inputs and cloud cover may reduce the sublimation.

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

In order to compare the reconstructed total-accumulation rates with direct precipitation measurements, data from La Serena (29°55' S, 71°12' W, 146 m) for the time period 1920 to 2000 (Aldo Montecinos, personal communication) were extrapolated to the altitude of Cerro Tapado using the gradient deduced from 6 stations along the Elqui valley (Begert, 1999). The mean annual precipitation estimated in this way was 315 mm for the period 1962–1999 (Fig. 4B), which is somewhat lower than the 539 mm given in Table 2. One possible reason might be occasional convective precipitation events approaching from the east that are not taken into account in such an extrapolation. Also the simplified altitudinal extrapolation might be erroneous.

The trends in both, extrapolated precipitation and total-accumulation, reflect a drier period from 1973 to 1981, and two wet episodes between 1962 and 1973, and after 1981. The strong increase of total accumulation to 1310 mm for the lowermost part of the core cannot be explained by precipitation rates of the last century.

3.3. Paleoclimate

Between 23.5 m weq depth and bedrock, direct dating of the ice core was not possible. Based on annual layers counting, this core section must be older than A.D. 1921. The presence of stretched gas bubbles (see Fig. 2) and low ice temperature near bedrock (−12.4°C) yields evidence for a much older ice body frozen to bedrock. This hypothesis is supported by the high ice density of this layer corresponding to the third stage of densification with compression of the bubbles under past higher glacier thickness pressure (Herron and Langway, 1980). Furthermore, the reconstructed mass balance terms for this lowermost part of the core differ markedly from the 20th century conditions (Table 2). Therefore, this ice must have been formed under very different climatic conditions in the more distant past. The mass balance model used to set up the relationship between climatic conditions and accumulation/ablation parameters on Cerro Tapado (Kull and Grosjean, 2000; Kull et al., 2002) was used to model related climatic conditions recorded in this ice body (Table 3). To explain such anomalous annual mean values, major climatic changes in comparison to modern conditions are

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

required. The reconstructed accumulation history in this part of the core must have been driven by massive sublimation losses during the buildup of the glacier (Table 3). The climatic interpretation, consistent with both, the ice core data and the climate-mass-balance model (Kull and Grosjean, 2000, Kull et al., 2002), points to lower temperatures ($-3\pm 1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$), higher annual precipitation (290 ± 150 mm) and increased seasonality in the moisture supply (Table 3). High precipitation in the humid winter season is responsible for the necessary accumulation while the extended dry season relates to the pronounced sublimation. Today the timing of this climatic regime remains unclear. However, the presence of a time and accumulation hiatus of unknown age and duration is clearly indicated and raises concerns and speculations.

The formation of the upper part of the Cerro Tapado glacier must therefore have occurred after previous climatic conditions have caused a complete ablation down to 23.5 m weq. To reach a negative net-accumulation, a reduction of the current annual total-accumulation by more than 270 mm weq is necessary. Assuming extremely dry climatic conditions such as those occurring in the center of the “South American Arid Diagonal” (around 25°S) at this altitude (summer precipitation=50 mm, winter precipitation=230 mm), a maximum annual negative mass balance of -515 mm is estimated after Kull and Grosjean (2000). This would require ~ 50 years of extremely dry conditions for a complete ablation of the actual ice mass on the summit plateau. If ablation by sublimation alone would have caused this reduction of the ice mass, a significant concentration peak in conservative chemical species would be expected which is not the case at 23.5 m weq. This implies that the hiatus at this depth must be explained by ice flow over the basal frozen ice body combined with ablation after the formation of the basal ice body.

4. Conclusion

Tropical glacier ice cores have often been used as paleoclimatic and environmental archives based on the interpretation of chemical and stable isotope records. However,

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

this study performed on a 36 m long ice core from subtropical Cerro Tapado glacier shows how drastically secondary effects such as sublimation may perturb primary information. Fortunately, sublimation leaves a footprint in the chemical record which can be used to reconstruct the original situation. This study shows how, on the basis of chemical trace analysis and the measurement of tritium and ^{210}Pb , the mass-balance parameters sublimation, melting and total-accumulation as a function of time can be deduced. This reconstruction reveals that, for the period 1962–1999, mean water loss due to sublimation amounted to 46% of total precipitation. Occasional melting and associated percolation was limited to the surface layer as a result of the low snow/firn temperature. The inferred annual total accumulation was compared with the SOI, which gives evidence that at Cerro Tapado the precipitation and ablation regimes are mainly influenced by ENSO conditions.

Based on ice core stratigraphy, mass balance reconstruction and ^{210}Pb dating, a hiatus in the ice body was found at a depth of 23.5 m weq. Below 23.5 m weq., the reconstruction suggests more humid and colder climate conditions with very pronounced precipitation seasonality, in marked contrast to 20th century conditions. This part has been formed under different climate conditions. Unfortunately the basal body is not dated yet. Therefore, it remains speculative, when the reconstructed climate conditions allowed starting the glacier buildup.

Acknowledgements. We would like to thank J. Quinteros (Dirección General de Aguas, Chile), A. Giannini (Universidad de Chile, Santiago), B. Zweifel (ETH Zürich) for their contribution to the fieldwork. The help of M. Grosjean and H. Veit (University of Bern) and A. Rivera (Universidad de Chile, Santiago) in organizing our expedition as well as the active support of H. P. Erismann, Swiss ambassador in Santiago de Chile, is highly acknowledged. Appreciation is expressed to the Chilean Army (Regimiento de Infantería N^o 21 “Arica”) for the support of the fieldwork, to Swisscargo for transporting the ice samples and to the Aargauer Zentralmolkerei for storing the ice. This work was carried out in the framework of the Swiss National Science Foundation, Projects 21-50854.97 and 21-50854.99.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

References

- Ammann, C.: Climate change in den trockenen Anden: Aktuelle Niederschlagsmuster, *Geographica Bernensia*, G46, 81–127, 1996.
- Ammann, C., Jenny, B., Kammer, K., and Messerli, B.: Late Quaternary Glacier response to humidity changes in the arid Andes of Chile (18–29° S), *Palaeogeogr.*, *Palaeoclimatol.*, *Palaeoecol.*, 172(3–4), 313–326, 2001.
- Begert, M.: Klimatologische Untersuchungen in der weiteren Umgebung des Cerro Tapado, Norte Chico, Chile, Master degree Thesis, University of Berne, Switzerland, 1999.
- Bradley, R. S.: Paleoclimatology; reconstructing climates of the Quaternary, International Geophysics Series, Vol. 64, Academic press, London, 1999.
- Correia, A., Freydier, R., Delmas, R. J., Simões, J. C., Taupin, J.-D., Dupré, B., Artaxo, and P.: Trace elements in South America aerosol during 20th century inferred from a Nevado Illimani ice core, Eastern Bolivian Andes (6350 m a.s.l.), *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 3, 1337–1352, 2003, [SRef-ID: 1680-7324/acp/2003-3-1337](#).
- De Angelis, M., Simões, J. C., Bonnaveira, H., Taupin, J. D., and Delmas, R. J.: Volcanic eruptions recorded in the Illimani ice core (Bolivia): 1918–1998 and Tambora periods, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 3, 1725–1741, 2003, [SRef-ID: 1680-7324/acp/2003-3-1725](#).
- Eichler, A., Schwikowski, M., Gäggeler, H. W., Furrer, V., Synal, H. A., Beer, J., Saurer, M. and Funk, M.: Glaciochemical dating of an ice core from upper Grenzgletscher (4200 m a.s.l.), *J. Glaciol.*, 46(154), 507–515, 2000.
- Escobar, F., Casassa, G., and Pozo, V.: Variaciones de un glaciar de montaña en los Andes de Chile central en las últimas dos décadas, *Bull. Inst. Fr. Etudes Andines*, 24(3), 683–695, 1995.
- Escobar, F. and Aceituno, P.: Influencia del fenomeno ENSO sobre la precipitacion nival en el sector andino de Chile Central, durante el invierno austral, *Bull. Inst. Fr. Etudes Andines*, 27(3), 753–759, 1998.
- Francou, B., Ramirez, E., Cáceres, B., and Mendoza, J.: Glacier Evolution in the Tropical Andes during the Last Decades of the 20th Century: Chacaltaya, Bolivia, and Antizana, Ecuador, *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*, 29(7), 416–422, 2000.
- Francou, B., Vuille, M., Wagnon, P., Mendoza, J., and Sicart, J.-E.: Tropical climate change recorded by a glacier in the central Andes during the last decades of the twentieth century:

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Chacaltaya, Bolivia, 16° S, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D5), 4154, doi:10.1029/2002JD002959, 2003.

Ginot, P., Kull, C., Schwikowski, M., Schotterer, U., and Gäggeler, H. W.: Effects of post-depositional processes on snow composition of a subtropical glacier (Cerro Tapado, Chilean Andes), *J. Geophys. Res.*, 106(D23), 32 375–32 386, 2001a.

Ginot, P., Schwikowski, M., Schotterer, U., Gäggeler, H. W., Francou, B., Gallaire, R., and Pouyaud, B.: Potential for climate variability reconstruction from Andean glaciochemical records, *Ann. of Glaciol.*, 35, 443–450, 2001b.

Ginot, P., Stampfli, F., Stampfli, D., Schwikowski, M., and Gäggeler, H. W.: FELICS, a new ice core drilling system for high-altitude glaciers, *Memoirs of National Institute of Polar Research*, 56 (Special Issue), 38–48, 2002.

Hardy, D., Williams, M. W., and Escobar, C.: Near-surface faceted crystals, avalanches and climate in high-elevation, tropical mountains of Bolivia, *Cold Regions Science and Technology*, 33(2–3), 291–302, 2001.

Herron, M. M. and Langway, C. C.: Firn densification: an empirical model, *J. Glaciol.*, 25, 373–385, 1980.

Hou, S. and Qin, D.: The effect of postdepositional process on the chemical profiles of snow pits in the percolation zone, *Cold Regions Science and Technology*, 34(2), 111–116, 2002.

Knüsel, S., Ginot, P., Schotterer, U., Schwikowski, M., Gäggeler, H. W., Francou, B., Simões, J. C., Petit, J. R., and Taupin, J. D.: Dating of two nearby ice cores from the Illimani, Bolivia, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 108(D6), 4181, doi:10.1029/2001JD002028, 2003.

Kull, C. and Grosjean, M.: Late Pleistocene climate conditions in the north Chilean Andes drawn from a climate-glacier model, *J. Glaciol.*, 46, 622–632, 2000.

Kull, C., Grosjean, M., and Veit, H.: Modeling Modern and Late Pleistocene glacio-climatological conditions in the North Chilean Andes (29° S–30° S), *Climate Change*, 52(3), 359–381, 2002.

Minetti, J. L., Barbieri, P. M., Carletto, M. C., Poblete, A. G., and Sierra, E. M.: El regimen de precipitación de la provincia de San Juan, Informe técnico, 8, CIRSAJ-CONICET, San Juan, 1986.

Schotterer, U., Schwarz, P., and Rajner, V.: From pre-bomb levels to industrial times. A complete tritium record from an ice core and its relevance for environmental studies, *International Symposium on Isotope Technique in the Study of Past and Current Environmental Changes in the Hydrosphere and the Atmosphere*, Vienna, 14–18 April 1997, 1998.

CPD

1, 169–192, 2005

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Schotterer, U., Stichler, W., and Ginot, P.: The influence of post-depositional effects on ice core studies: examples from the Alps, Andes, and Altai, in: *Earth Paleoenvironments: Records preserved in Mid and Low Latitude Glaciers*, edited by: Cecil, L. D., Thompson, L. G., Steig, E. J., and Green, J. R., Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2005.

5 Stichler, W., Schotterer, U., Fröhlich, K., Ginot, P., Kull, C., Gäggeler, H. W., and Pouyaud, B.: The influence of sublimation on stable isotopes records from high altitude glaciers in the tropical Andes, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 106(D19), 22 613–22 621, 2001.

Thompson, L. G., Mosley-Thompson, E., Bolzan, J. F., and Koci, B.: A 1500-Year Record of tropical precipitation in ice core from the Quelccaya ice cap, Peru, *Science*, 229, 971–973, 10 1985.

Thompson, L. G., Mosley-Thompson, E., Davis, M. E., Lin, P.-N., Henderson, K. A., Cole-Dai, J., Bolsan, J. F., Lui, K.-B.: Late glacial stage and Holocene tropical ice core records from Huascarán, Peru, *Science*, 269, 46–50, 1995.

15 Thompson, L. G., Davis, M., Mosley-Thompson, E., Sowers, T. A., Henderson, K. A., Zagorodnov, V. S., Lin, P. N., Mikhailenko, V. N., Campen, R. K., Bolzan, J. F., Cole-Dai, J., and Francou, B.: A 25 000-year tropical climate history from Bolivian ice cores, *Science*, 282, 1858–1864, 1998.

Vuille, M.: *Zur raumzeitlichen Dynamik von Schneefall und Ausaperung im Bereich des südlichen Altiplano, Südamerika*, Ph.D. thesis, University of Berne, Switzerland, 1996.

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Table 1. Modern climate conditions on Cerro Tapado at 4000 m a.s.l. (Kull et al., 2002).

	Precipitation ^{d,f} (mm y ⁻¹)	Temperature ^{a,f} (°C)	Radiation ^{a,f} (kwh m ⁻² d ⁻¹)	Wind ^{a,b,c} (m s ⁻¹)	Rel. hum. ^{a,b,c} (%)	Cloudiness ^e (%)
Annual mean	400	-0.4	5.62	4.36	28	15
Annual amplitude	100 mm in summer	6	2.1	2	3	5
Daily amplitude		8				
Lapse rate (/100 m)	12	-0.68 (summer) -0.71 (winter)	0.04	0.08	0.09	0.84

^a Tapado 4215 m (30°08' S/69°55' W; 1998–1999)^b El Laco 4400 m (23°50' S/67°29' W; 1990–1994)^c El Laco 5000 m (23°50' S/67°29' W; 1990–1994)^d Minetti et al. (1986)^e Ammann (1996)^f Vuille (1996)

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

I◀

▶I

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Table 2. Mass balance terms net accumulation, sublimation, melt, and total accumulation reconstructed from the ice core.

Period	Value	Net-accumulation		Sublimation		Melt	Total-accumulation	
		Annual	1 m	Annual	1 m	1 m	Annual	1 m
1999–1962	Mean	316	347	327	283	40	539	553
	Min	102	200 (–18)	1	24 (–5)	8 (–1)	160	335 (–37)
	Max	1032	500 (+167)	1237	667 (+74)	122 (+40)	1985	851 (+284)
1962–23.5 m weq	Mean		306		374	33		681
	Min		167 (–13)		37 (–8)	4 (–1)		384 (–35)
	Max		500 (+167)		880 (+294)	63 (+20)		1380 (+460)
23.5 m weq – Bedrock	Mean		263		1374			1310
	Min		218 (–24)		982 (–109)			586 (–53)
	Max		333 (+67)		1807 (+360)			1960 (+178)

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[I◀](#)
[▶I](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Print Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

Table 3. Climate reconstruction from the accumulation history in the core using the mass balance model from Kull and Grosjean (2000) and Kull et al. (2002).

Parameter	1998/1999 Measured/modeled	1920/1999 Modern average	23.5 m – bottom Paleo-conditions	Difference Paleo/Modern
Mean annual Temp. (°C)	–11.5	–12.4±0.2	–15±1.5	–3(±1.5)
Total accumulation (mm/y)	750	540±45	830±50	+290±150
Winter accumulation (mm)	500	310±45	780±50	+470±100
Summer accumulation (mm)	250	230±45	50±50	–180±100
Sublimation (mm/y)	490	240	620	+380
Net accumulation (mm/y)	260	300	210	–80

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

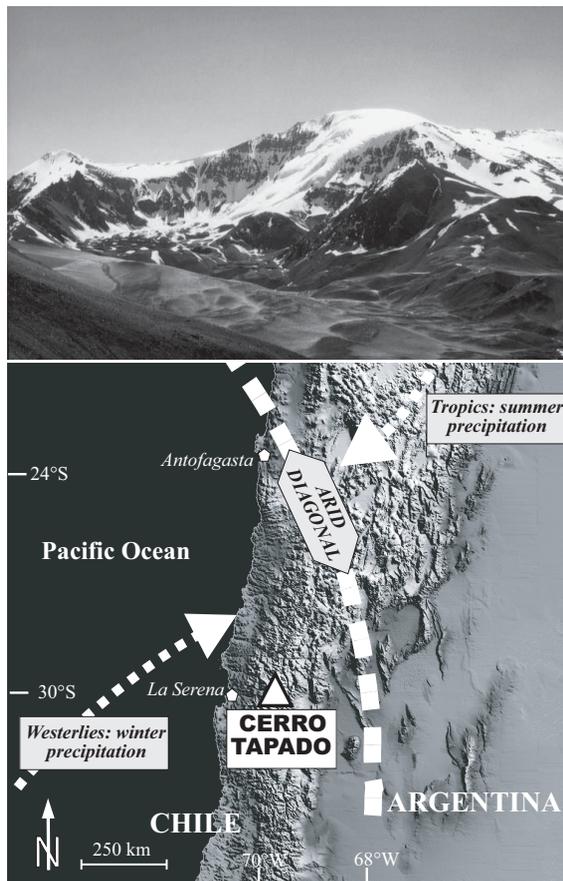


Fig. 1. Location of Cerro Tapado in Northern Chile. The South American Arid Diagonal separates both principal precipitation regimes that influence this region (Westerlies and Tropics). On the top, a photo of the glacier on Cerro Tapado.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

Cerro Tapado ice core
core

P. Ginot et al.

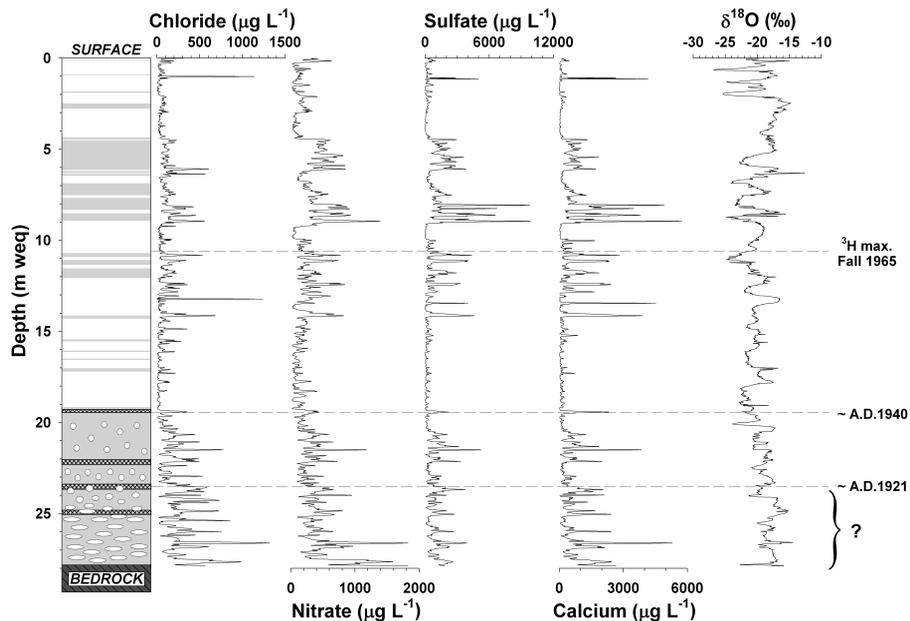


Fig. 2. Cerro Tapado ice core: stratigraphy [firn (white), ice (grey), particle layer (hatched black), air bubble shape (white circles and ellipses)] and concentrations profiles of chloride, nitrate, sulfate, calcium and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. A few time horizons are indicated. The age of the lowermost 4.5 m weq is unknown (see text).

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion

EGU

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

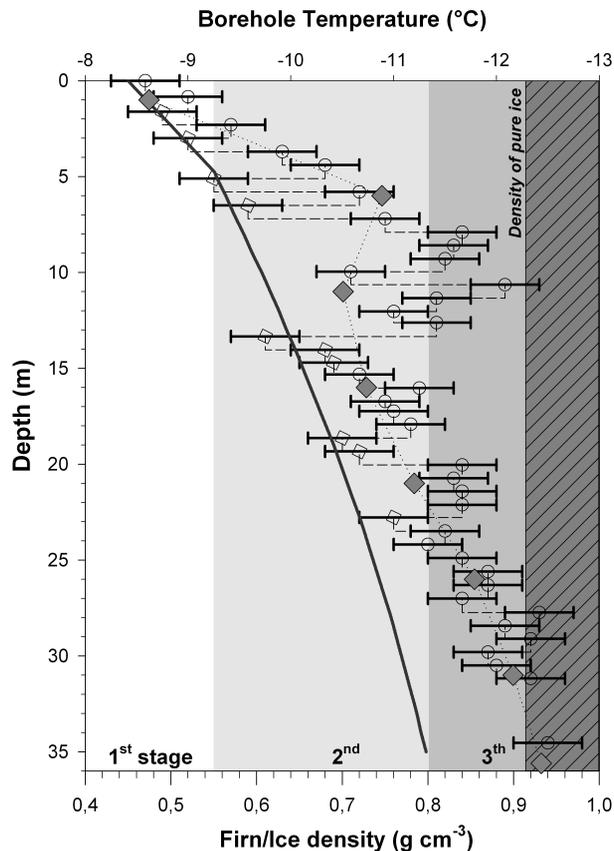


Fig. 3. Borehole temperature in $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (grey diamonds) and firn/ice density. The black circles represent the density of segments with ice lenses formed by refreezing meltwater, and white squares represent the density of segments without. The thick black line is the modeled density for the 1st and 2nd stages of densification, until a density of 0.8 g cm^{-3} (Herron and Langway, 1980).

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Print Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

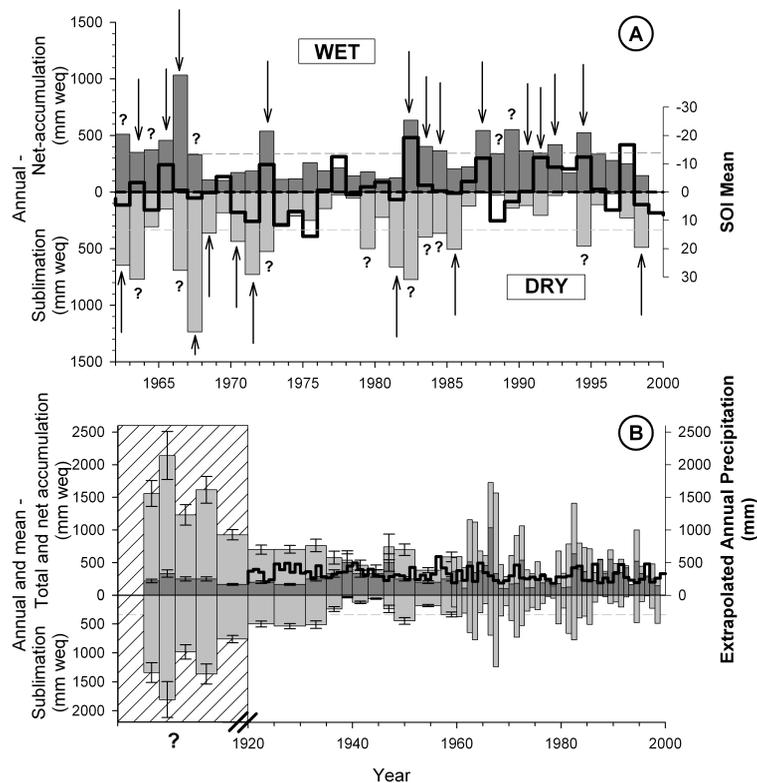


Fig. 4. (A) Measured annual net-accumulation and reconstructed sublimation deduced from the ice core are compared with the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI, thick line) for the time period 1962–1999 with annual resolution. (B) Net-accumulation, reconstructed sublimation, and total accumulation (which is the sum of net-accumulation and sublimation) compared to the annual precipitation amount, extrapolated using data from La Serena (see text). The shaded area corresponds to the core section with “unknown age”.

[Title Page](#)
[Abstract](#)
[Introduction](#)
[Conclusions](#)
[References](#)
[Tables](#)
[Figures](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[◀](#)
[▶](#)
[Back](#)
[Close](#)
[Full Screen / Esc](#)
[Print Version](#)
[Interactive Discussion](#)

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

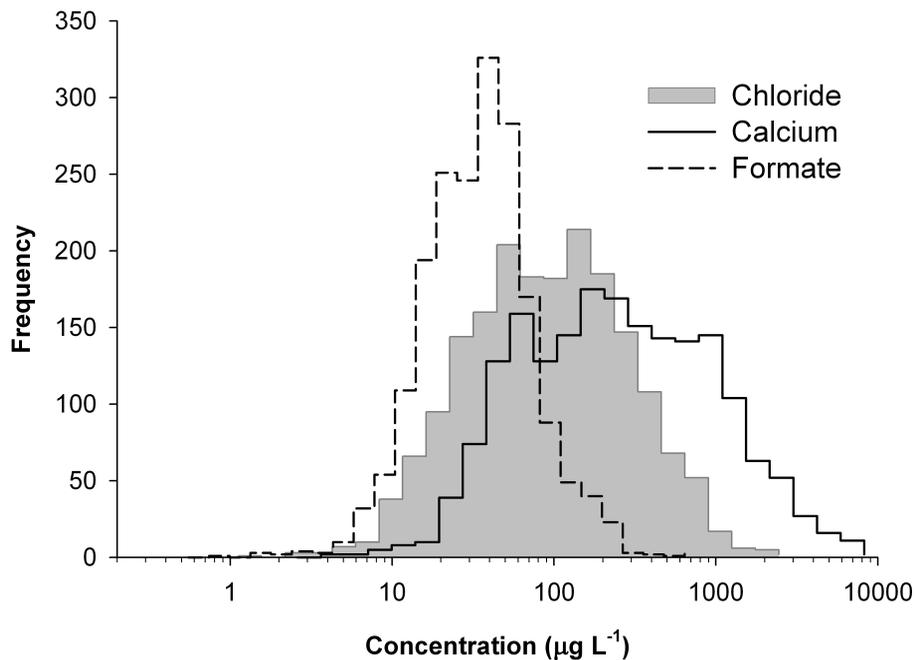


Fig. 5. Absolute frequency distribution histograms of chloride, calcium and formate concentration (1901 samples divided in 25 bins).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Print Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

EGU

Cerro Tapado ice core

P. Ginot et al.

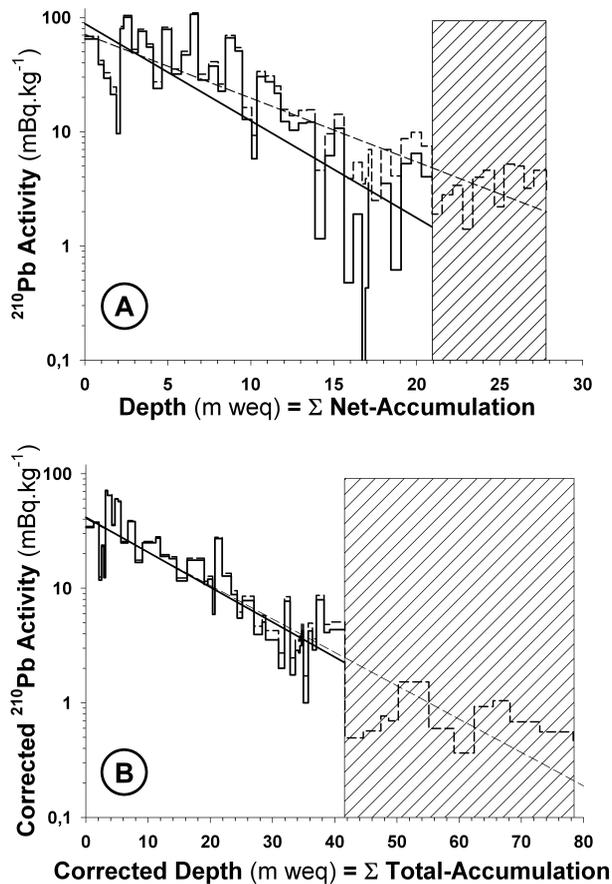


Fig. 6. Measured (A) and sublimation corrected (B) ^{210}Pb activity profiles with linear regression lines. Dashed and thick lines represent raw and blank corrected values respectively. The grey zone represents the ice core section with “unknown age”.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Print Version

Interactive Discussion