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Paleomagnetic study of Unzen volcano, Kyushu, Japan

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A paleomagnetic study of Unzen volcano was carried out for understanding its eruptive history. Lava flows and pyroclastic flows of this area over the last 500ka were sampled in 59 sites (40 lava flows and 19 pyroclastic flows). For most of the samples of lava flows, we could easily identify stable primary magnetizations, although some of these contained large secondary magnetizations. One of the lava flows of the older Unzen volcano (ca.200ka) was found to have intermediate magnetic direction. This may be correlated with the 'Pringle Fall' excursion found at western United States. For the pyroclastic flows, we could less obtain the significant directions. The resultant angular standard deviation (ASD) of the VGPs calculated from each site mean direction was 17.7 (+5.0, -3.2) degrees.