

Interactive comment on “Observations of a stratospheric aerosol veil from a tropical volcanic eruption in December 1808: is this the “Unknown” ~ 1809 eruption?” by A. Guevara-Murua et al.

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General Comments

This paper provides a new impetus in efforts to identify the location and timing of the major volcanic eruption which occurred around 1808/1809.

Based on documentary material from two South American sources for a stratospheric aerosol haze plus sunset after-glows respectively, and the timing of these signatures, the authors suggest that the volcano was located in the tropics and occurred in late November-early December 1808.

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I believe that this paper is very much in the spirit of the search for the 'Unknown' volcanic eruption prior to the more well known Tambora event, and that it will prompt further investigations into the 1808/1809 eruption. Thus, Short and Interactive Comments on this paper will be very valuable in shaping this paper and future research on this topic.

Specific Comments

It would be very useful if the authors were able to provide some assessment of the potential that might exist for finding more documentary evidence for the 1808/1809 eruption. As they note, it is quite surprising that no one has yet been able to conclusively identify the source of this event.

There may be important observational evidence of major volcanic events noted in ship logbooks. A recently scanned and digitised block of data from ships of the English East India Company covering the Atlantic and Indian oceans for the period 1789 to 1834 would be one new potential source (<http://www.clim-past.net/8/1551/2012/cp-8-1551-2012.html>).

Providing the main documentary texts detailed in this paper in both Spanish and England in the paper was a positive inclusion.

Technically Correct

This paper was well written and structured, making it easy to access.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 10, 1901, 2014.

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