

REPORT ON A RECENT ERUPTION OF THE MUD VOLCANO, DEVIL'S WOODYARD, SOUTH TRINIDAD

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ABSTRACT

On May 8, 1995 residents from the village of Hindustan in south Trinidad reported the most recent eruption of the mud volcano at Devil's Woodyard. A team of geologists from the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago visited the site on May 10, 1995 and recorded the following observations which will be represented pictorially:

- The extrusion was elliptical in shape, composed of light grey to dark grey mud, and elongated approximately 130 m in an east to west direction and 106 m north to south.
- Several saucer-shaped vents or mini-craters 15 - 60 cm deep and 15 - 90 cm wide were observed towards the centre of the extrusion. Odourless gas was still escaping from certain vents four days after the eruption.
- A yellowish colouration of the mud mass was noted in certain discrete areas at the centre of the extrusion.
- Several concentric and radial cracks were noted around the extrusion; these cracks ranged in width from 15 - 120 cm and depth from 90 - 120 cm.
- Social impacts of the extrusion include destruction of nearby recreational facilities built to encourage visitors to the site, and reports by villagers of eye and nose irritations from escaping gases.