



Craterlike forms of uncertain origin in some volcanic areas of the central-southern Apennine (Italy)

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The real morphogenetic processes of some landforms are not always easily identifiable due to the presence in the same geological scenarios of analogous forms not genetically correlated.

Collapses, volcanic craters (maar), collapse or dissolution dolines, evorsion cavities represent examples of morphological convergences that origin sub-circular erosion landforms in plain areas and pedemountains belts of the central-southern Apennine.

Since ancient age craterlike forms of uncertain origin, dry or water filled, with diameters ranging from tens to more than one hundred meters, have been observed in Latium and Campania regions.

These landforms have been classified, in the past, as maar. Our study allows to identify some of these collapses as sinkholes strict sense.

Historical data researches and direct geological survey of the areas clarified the collapse processes and the stratigraphic setting. These events happened after the end of the volcanic activity so they can not be related to maar events.

Hereby we present the first results of some investigations in the volcanic areas of Ardena and Passerano (Latium region - Rome county), Forino, Vairano and Carinola (Campania region – Avellino and Caserta counties).