

Schultz's definition (1937, p.79) of the Coso should be clarified because the lava flows in the Coso Range have a wide age range. We believe that the lava flows referred to by Schultz are the rhyodacite flows on the Haiwee Ridge (fig. 1) described in the section on Pliocene rhyodacite lava flows.

Parts of the Coso Formation have been described by Hopper (1947), Power (1959, 1961), Bacon and Duffield (1978), Duffield, Bacon, and Roquemore (1979), Duffield, Bacon, and Dalrymple (1980), and Giovannetti (1979a, b). Deposits mapped as the Coso (fig. 1) Occur in the Haiwee Reservoir (Stinson, 1977a), Keeler (Stinson, 1977b), and Darwin (Hall and MacKevett, 1962) 15-minute quadrangles and have been mapped in the Coso volcanic field (Duffield and Bacon, 1981).

Potassium-argon dating of volcanic rocks intercalated with, and overlying, the Coso Formation has been used by Evernden, Savage, Curtis, and James (1964), Bacon, Giovannetti, Duffield, and Dalrymple (1979), and Duffield, Bacon, and Dalrymple (1980) to constrain the age of the Coso. In this report, we review these potassium-argon ages and present additional data that provide more accurate limits on the age of the Coso Formation.

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DATING TECHNIQUES

Potassium and argon analyses were performed on crushed whole-rock samples of obsidian and basalt and on separates of sanidine, plagioclase, and biotite. The analytical data are presented in table 1 and include some data published previously (Duffield and others, 1980) for the sake of completeness. Analyses of samples from localities 43-66 were performed at the U.S Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif., as described by Duffield, Bacon, and Dalrymple (1980); those for localities 67-72 were made at the University of California at Berkley by techniques described by Dalrymple and Lanphere (1969).

Fission-track ages of zircons (table 2) were determined by techniques described by Naeser (1976).