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Real-time remote sensing monitoring of lava flows of Volcan de Colima (Mexico), 1996-2005

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Volcán de Colima, an andesitic stratovolcano (19.51° N, 103-62° W, 3850 m) is the most active volcano of Mexico, its last reactivation initiated at the end of 1997 and continues up to date. This process has been characterized by an alternate eruption dynamics, starting with an effusive phase which lasted from November 1998 to February 1999, then showing a low energy explosive phase from February 10 to July 1998. This alternativeness has continued through the time, on October 21, 2004 a new effusive phase showing high integrated brightness AVHRR temperatures accompanied by small discrete ash emissions which stay until November 11, 2004 and then decaying slowly until January 24, 2005. Here it will be documented the lava flows, their temperature evolution, extension and associated environmental hazards using AVHRR multispectral data and in situ observations and photographs.