Satellite observations of the eruption of Dala Filla volcano in the Afar Depression, Ethiopia, during November 2008

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The Dala Filla volcano lies in the north of the Erta Ale volcanic range in the Afar Depression, Ethiopia, and was the site of an effusive fissure eruption in November 2008. The volcano lies in a remote, sparsely populated region where access is difficult, so satellite images are the main source of information for reconstructing the eruption and estimating duration, volumes and rates. We present medium resolution thermal images acquired during the eruption to characterise its evolution and high resolution visual images acquired after the eruption to characterise the geomorphology of the resulting deposits. The significance of the eruption is assessed in the context of previous activity in the region using a revised geological interpretation of the area from satellite images.