

Alluvial Fans in Mojave Crater

Stereo data from an anaglyph (or 3D) image shows that the landscape in this observation is pervasively eroded, right up to the tops of the ridges, with channels extending down into depositional fans much like alluvial fans in the Mojave Desert. This can be explained by something like rainfall, but this crater is geologically young, only a few hundred million years old, when Mars' atmosphere was thought to be too depleted to support rainfall.

