Rounded Mounds in Northern Arabia Terra

These rounded, mysterious mounds occur along the floor of a depression in northern Arabia Terra. The mound surface has many parallel troughs that contain light-toned transverse aeolian (e.g., formed by the wind) ridges oriented perpendicular to the trough walls.

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Inverted Terrain in Eridania

Along this eastern boundary, the terrain is being eroded away to expose light-toned altered material, including clays. There are also linear ridges and inverted channels. The channels and ridges are now inverted because they are composed of material that is harder than their surroundings (e.g., cements) so as erosion removes the softer materials, the harder rocks within the channels and ridges remain.

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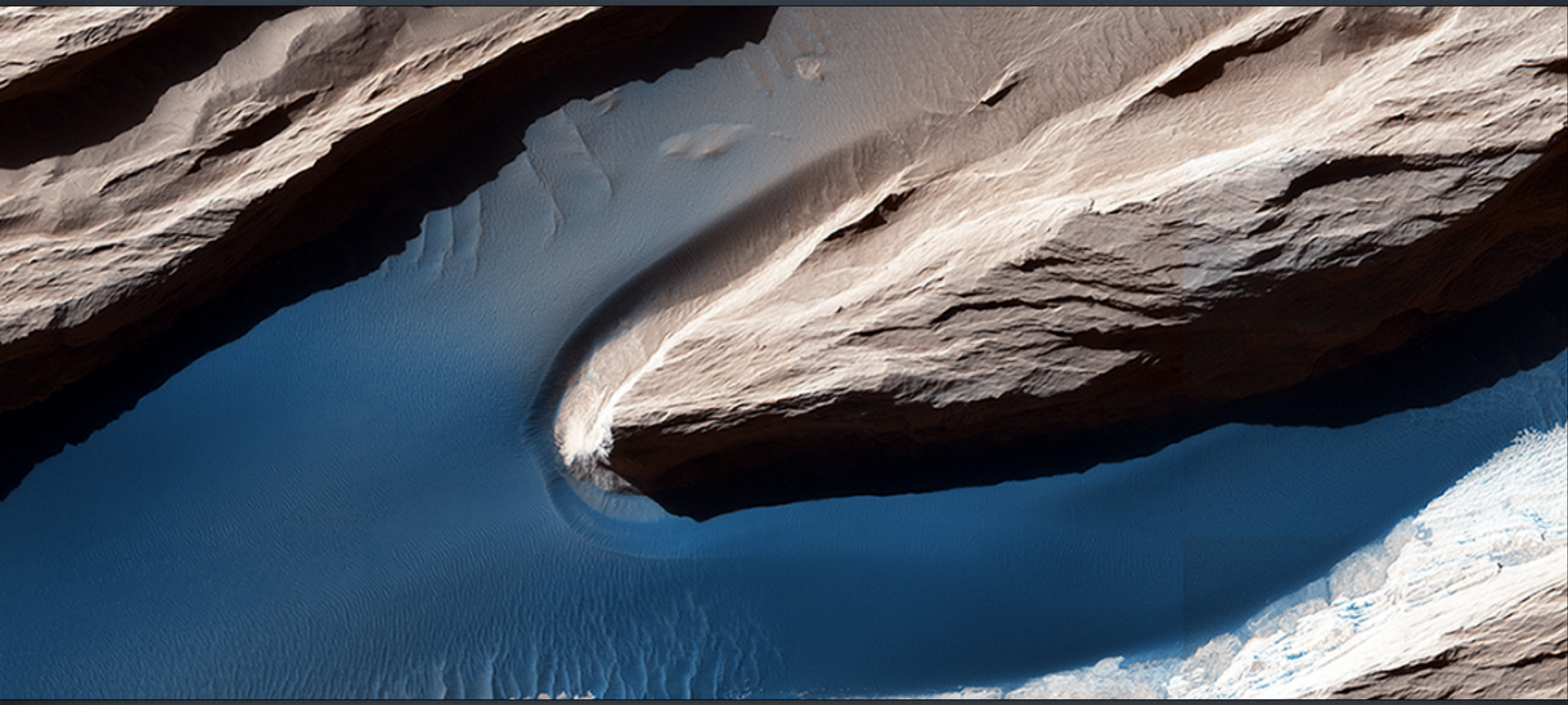

Wind at Work

Wind is one of the most active forces shaping Mars' surface in today's climate. The wind has carved the features we call "yardangs," one of many in this scene, and deposited sand on the floor of shallow channels between them.

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A Possible Alluvial Fan

Fan-shaped lobes likes these are also in the desert southwest of the United States, and are called “alluvial fans.” They are caused when streams that carry sediment in a confined channel open up onto a plain or wide area, and deposit their sediment just outside of the channel mouth.

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