



Active Sand Abrasion in the Northern Polar Region of Mars

ESP_o26839_2550

The large dune field which surrounds Mars’ North Polar cap is actively being modified by the wind, with dunes moving at rates of a meter or more per year. This image shows that the blowing sand is also abrading the ice-rich ground over which the dunes migrate.

The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: uahirise.org.