



Compositionally Diverse Bedrock

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HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGING
SCIENCE EXPERIMENT
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Regolith, particulate fragmented rock and fine grained soils, generally cover most of the surface of Mars. Mantles of rocky dust often mute the landscape, filling in topographic lows and burying boulders. Sorted sand-sized soil grains are often evident in images in the form of sand dunes and ripples. Clean exposures of bed-rock are relatively rare. Sedimentary layers can also become eroded showing alternating bands, these visible bands manifesting from changes in rock strength between layers. All of these examples are visible within this geologically rich image.

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.