



Apostrophe Dunes

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While most barchan dunes (also known as crescent dunes) on the Earth and Mars are near-symmetric in shape with two horns pointing down-wind, these dunes only have one pointy horn. Their other “horn” is very rounded and the steep slipface (the smooth slope between the horn and the rounded side that only forms in the sheltered downwind side of the dune) is offset from the middle.

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.