



Seasonal Flows in Palikir Crater

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Seasonal flows on warm Martian slopes may be caused by the flow of salty water on Mars, active today when the surface is warm (above the freezing point of the solution). Palikir Crater, which sits inside the much large Newton crater, contains thousands of individual flows called “Recurring Slope Linea”, or RSL. In the Southern middle latitudes, RSL form and grow every summer in certain places, fading in late summer and fall. The RSL are remarkably repeatable from year to year in this location, with differences perhaps related to the weather--mainly due to variations in dust content of the air.