



Sandstone Cliffs and Hematite Lag Deposits of Ophir Mensa

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These lighter-tone linear units to the north are called “yardangs” and formed when downslope winds carved the fragile sandstone into channels. Over time, wind and gravity conspire to erode material downslope and onto the canyon floor. The darker-toned sandy deposits at the cliff base contain high concentrations of hematite (along with basaltic or volcanic s.and) known from infrared orbital measurements.