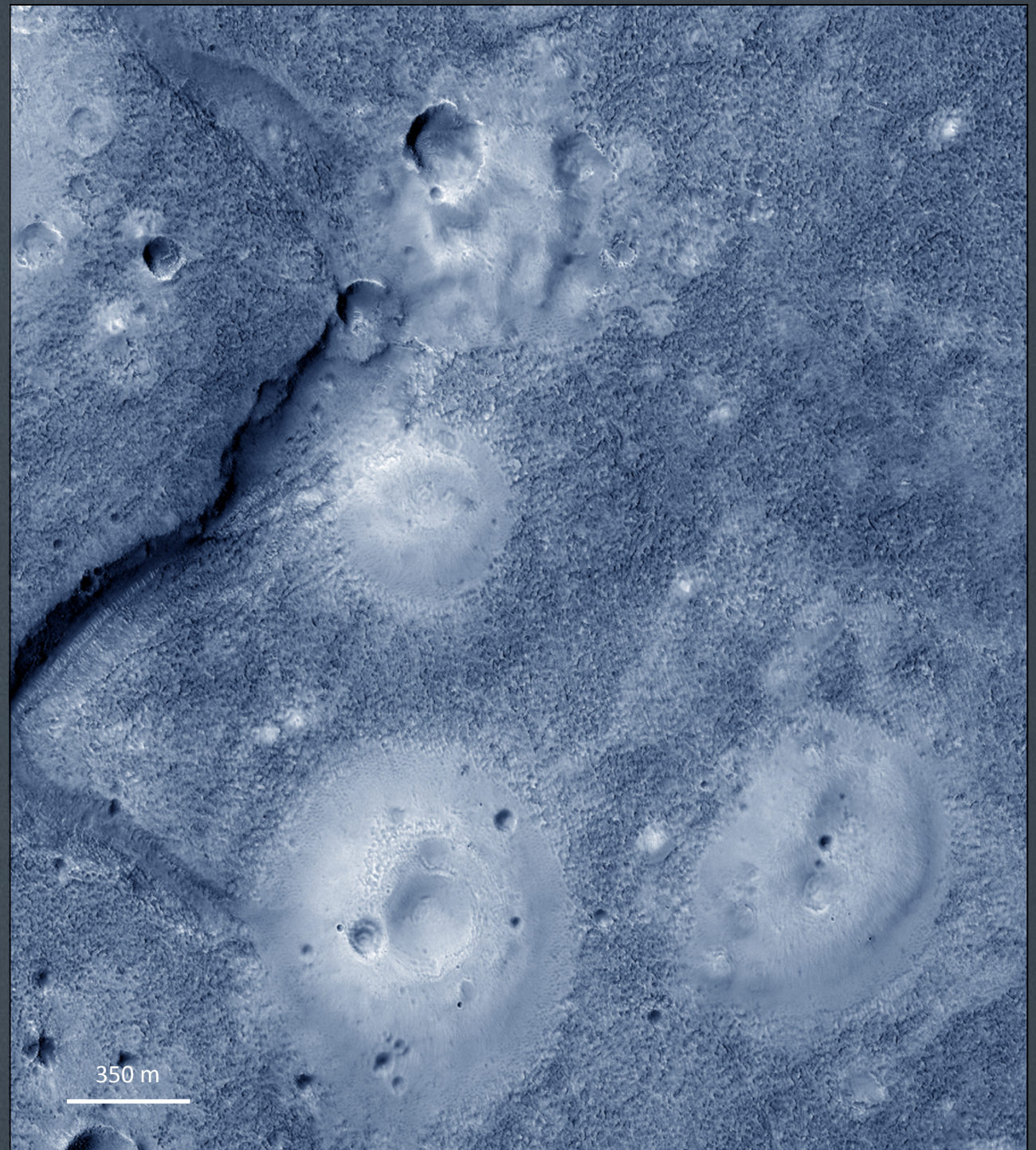


Mud Volcanoes on Mars: Targets for Exploration

MRO's High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera acquired this image of mounds in Acidalia Planitia, in the northern lowlands of Mars. Comparison with terrestrial analogs suggests the mounds could be martian mud volcanoes.

Mud volcanoes on Earth commonly occur with abundant organic matter. They also bring well-preserved materials from great depth to the surface. Consequently, mud volcanoes on Mars might provide rover access to samples from depths that would otherwise be unreachable and that may contain microfossils or organic molecules from potential martian life.

Oehler, D.Z. and Allen, C.C., (2010). Evidence for pervasive mud volcanism in Acidalia Planitia, Mars. *Icarus*.



uahirise.org/PSP_008522_2210. Acquired 21 May 2008