

NOTE: Uncolored units do not appear on this map.

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS  
Crater populations on individual map units are indicated by the letter N, which refers to the number of craters counted larger than 1.0 km in diameter, normalized to an area of 1 million km<sup>2</sup>.

**YOUNGER FLOWS**  
**OLYMPUS PLAINS FLOWS**—Occur around basal scarp of Olympus Mons. Surfaces relatively smooth with many lobate scarps; crater density very low (N=90). Overlap all adjacent units including flows from Olympus Mons (units Aom<sub>1</sub>, Aom<sub>2</sub>). In places elongate tongues are centered along fissure systems in plains east of Olympus Mons. Interpretation: Youngest lava flows in Tharsis region, extruded from faults and fissures in high plains east of Olympus Mons.

**ARSIA MONS FLOW UNIT 5**—Forms smooth mantles on northeast and southwest upper slopes of Arisia Mons and partly fills caldera. Overlaps Tharsis Montes flows but boundaries between units poorly defined. Crater density very low (N<100). Interpretation: Youngest lava flows from Arisia Mons originating from faulted vents near summit and within caldera.

**ALBA PATERA FLOW UNIT 3**—Occurs around and within central caldera. Flows bury and partly bury many radial and transverse faults. Embays highlands and is partly overlapped by unit Aom<sub>2</sub>. Interpretation: Youngest lava flows erupted from caldera and fissures during period of intense faulting around central part of Alba Patera.

**SYRIA PLANUM FLOW UNIT 2**—Occurs around depression in central area of Syria Planum. Long narrow flows and sheet type flows common; few channels. Partly covers fault systems associated with Charitias Fossae. Transsected in places by troughs of Noctis Labyrinthus. Gradational with Syria Planum flow unit 1. Crater density range, N=1800-2400. Interpretation: Lava flows younger than fault systems associated with Charitias Fossae but older than fractures of Noctis Labyrinthus. Flows may have been extruded from caldera near present summit of Syria Planum.

**ALBA PATERA FLOW UNIT 1**—Similar to Alba Patera flow unit 2 but with lobes less defined. Boundary with plains materials in northern lowlands not distinct. Originates primarily at Alba Patera where it is cut by peripheral fissure and fault systems, but includes localised, conical flows apparently extruded radially from the center of a concentric volcano-tectonic feature at 25° N, 120° W. About same relative age as unit above. Crater density range, N=2400-3200. Interpretation: Earliest exposed lava flows from Alba Patera and possible flow from northern eruptive center.

**SLIDE, CHANNEL, AND FLOOD-PLAIN MATERIALS**  
**SLIDE MATERIAL, UNDIVIDED**—Occurs on northwest slopes of Olympus Mons, Arisia Mons, Pavonis Mons, and within Noctis Labyrinthus. Forms large thin lobes having many concentric ridges and troughs. Lava flows clearly visible beneath slide deposits at some places but partly covered elsewhere. Consists of smooth and rough facies but mapped as undivided unit. Interpretation: Landslide and debris flows; around volcanoes mass movement activated by melting of ground ice and thixotropic induced by seismic shaking associated with volcanism.

**CHANNEL AND FLOODPLAIN DEPOSITS**—Cover floor of Mangala Vallis and adjacent floodplains; include debris flows, debris fans, and debris cones. Relatively flat, with raised transverse forms oriented parallel to valley. Buried partly or completely the faults and fractures that transect adjacent highlands. No lobate fronts observed. Crater density range, N=850-1150. Interpretation: Highland deposits of Mangala Vallis and its tributary channels, and restricted occurrences elsewhere.

**PLAINS AND EOLIAN DEPOSITS**  
**SMOOTH PLAINS MATERIAL**—Occurs chiefly in low areas and forms light, relatively flat facies. In places textural characteristics of substrate visible on high-resolution images. Interpretation: This mantle of windblown material.

**EOLIAN MATERIAL, UNDIVIDED**—Forms broad low hills north and west of Mangala Vallis; smooth rolling surfaces, striated in places along margins. Encompasses and partly buries adjacent units and landforms. In other areas occurs as broad, relatively level plains that appear rough and striated on moderate-resolution images. Crater density low. Interpretation: Includes both depositional and erosional surfaces formed by wind; may have originated at ash-fall deposits.

**TERRA MATERIAL, UNDIVIDED**—Occurs on both rough smooth-fractured areas of relatively elevated terrain throughout Tharsis region; forms rectangular ring of Acheron Fossae. Embayed by all other units. Generally highly cratered, but apparent density of craters varies with degree of fracturing. Interpretation: Rough surfaces represent erosion and distribution of insulating debris in the inner solar system. Evidence from planetary impact and explosion cratering, in Kladly, D. J., Peppin, R. O., and Merrill, R. B., eds. Impact and explosion cratering. New York: Pergamon Press, p. 629-633.

**TECTONIC EPISODES**  
Minor faulting, crest of Tharsis Montes  
Formation of basal scarp of Olympus Mons  
Minor faulting, Arisia Mons  
Moderate faulting, Ceramius Fossae and Alba Patera  
Major faulting, Arisia Mons  
Intense faulting in aureole deposits of Olympus Mons  
Major faulting, Alba Patera and Syria Planum  
Major regional faulting

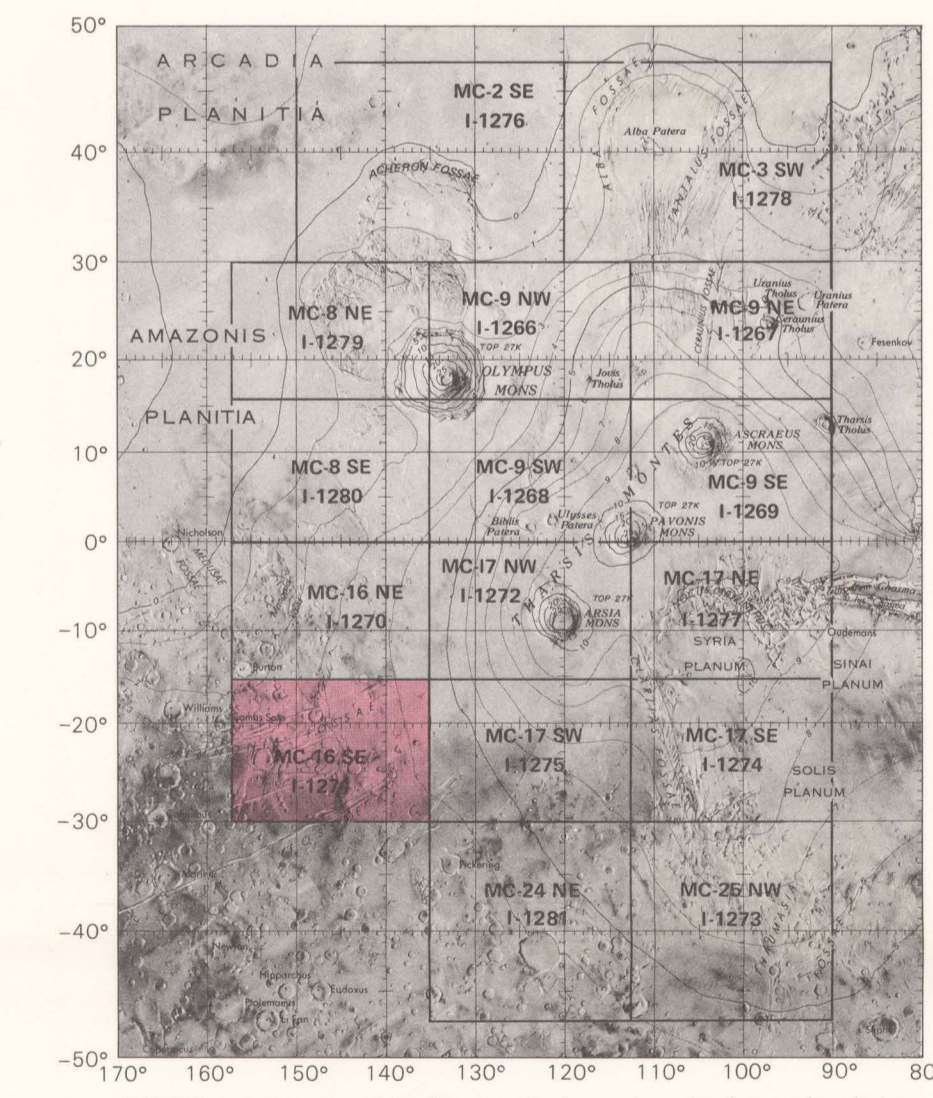


FIGURE 1—Index map of Tharsis volcanic province showing quadrangle locations. The number preceded by the letter T is the Tharsis volcanic province quadrangle number. The number preceded by the letter M is the 1:2,000,000 geologic map number.

**INTRODUCTION**  
The systematic mapping of lava flow units in the Tharsis region has been compiled into a series of 16 maps at 1:2,000,000 scale. This work provides information on the sources and areal extent of the lava flows, on their eruptive sequences and relative ages, and on related tectonic and volcanic processes in the largest, most active tectonic and volcanic province on Mars. Some of the maps were made from controlled Viking photostereos published as quarter quadrangles in the Atlas of Mars Topographic Series (U.S. Geological Survey, 1979) and tied to the Viking control net. Where these photostereos were not available, larger scale catalog photostereos tied to the Mariner 9 control net were used. These maps were subsequently reduced to the 1:2,000,000 scale, but slight discrepancies may occur in places between figures referred to coordinates on the two types of bases.

**Geologic Summary**  
Martian lava flows are similar in morphology to those on Earth and the Moon. They commonly exhibit overlapping, lobate, and crumpled margins and occur chiefly as sheet flows or as channel- and tube-flow (Car and others, 1977). Sheet flows are more common on the plains and on the lower, more gentle slopes of volcanoes. Their surfaces appear flat and smooth at moderate resolution, but at high resolution they exhibit concentric ridge-and-trough patterns subparallel to flow margins. Channel and tube flows are more prevalent on the steeper slopes around volcanoes such as Olympus Mons and Arisia Mons, but also occur on relatively level surfaces at Alba Patera and Ceramius Fossae. Younger flows have rougher textures than older ones that have been smoothed by erosion and mantled to various degrees by eolian deposits. The martian flows, like those on Earth, originated from the central vents of volcanoes or from radial fissures on their flanks, or from fissures in plains areas far removed from the volcanic edifices. Of the 24 major lava-flow sequences mapped in the Tharsis region of Mars, 13 emanated mostly from two large volcano-tectonic centers: Olympus Mons and Arisia Mons. The youngest recognized flows were extruded from lava fissures in the high plains east of Olympus Mons and from the summit areas of the Tharsis volcanoes. About 20 percent of the flows are associated with faults and associated fissures in two widely separated localities at Alba Patera (40° N, 110°) and Syria Planum (15° S, 100°), respectively; a large shield volcano and a high-elevation but low-relief dome of regional proportions.

**Basement and Nonvolcanic Units**  
Basement rocks (unit HNht) are undivided. They consist of both rough and smooth, highly fractured, hilly and cratered materials and cratered plains and cratered plateaus mantled by a large part of the ancient martian highlands (Scott and Carr, 1978). They occur mostly as relatively large blocks embayed and partly buried by younger flows. About 20 percent of the flows, however, these older rocks may be exposed in the basal scarp and as uplifted blocks projecting above the lava flows in places. Some of this material may represent segments of overlapping, channels that formerly covered the present site of this volcano and Olympus Mons flows that predate the basal scarp. However, these various units cannot be separately distinguished in such small areas, and most exposed parts of the scarp complex have been mapped as basement material.

**Channel and Flood-plain Deposits**  
Channel and flood-plain deposits and large accumulations of eolian material have been mapped in a few places. They have been relatively dated—stratigraphically and by crater counts—with respect to the Tharsis lava flows and contribute information on climate in the evolutionary history of the region. Landslides are common around the large volcanoes in the Tharsis region. They occur along and below the basal scarp on the west side of Olympus Mons and on the northwest flanks of Arisia, Pavonis, and Acheron Montes. Although the slide material is undivided on the lava flow maps, it consists chiefly of two end members. 1) rough, blocky rockfall and rockslides near the head of a dislocated area that grade downslope into 2) debris or mudflow deposits that form thin lobate tongues with many narrow ridges concentric to the outermost flow front. These deposits at Arisia Mons and Pavonis Mons are older than flows from the crestal areas of these volcanoes but overlap slightly older flows on their flanks.

**Tharsis Lava Flows**  
The major flow units are grouped very generally into broad relative-age categories. The eruptive sequence appears to have been continuous throughout the volcanic history of the region. Crater densities cited below are the number of craters larger than 1 km in diameter normalized to an area of 1 million km<sup>2</sup>.

**Older Flows—Alba Patera, Syria Planum, and the Aureoles of Olympus Mons**—The flows from Alba Patera and Syria Planum have the highest crater densities, ranging from about 1800 for the youngest to 3200 for the oldest flows at each location. These figures are roughly comparable to those of younger and older lunar maria at the Apollo 11 and 12 sites respectively (Neukum and Wise, 1976). Estimates of the absolute ages of these and other flows vary widely, however, because of inherent uncertainties in the models postulated for martian intercrater flux curves used to establish correlations between crater frequency and geologic age (Neukum and Wise, 1976; Hartmann, 1977; Soderholm, 1977).

**Younger Flows—Olympus Mons, Olympus Plains, and the Volcanoes of Tharsis Montes**—Crater densities for this group of flows range from about 90 to 350. They originated from the flanks and summit of Olympus Mons, from fissures in the plains east of the volcano, and from the crestal areas of Arisia, Pavonis, and Acheron Montes. Stratigraphic relations are clearly defined between the flows of Olympus Mons and those of the adjacent plains. These plains partly enclose Olympus Mons on the east within a topographically low area between the volcano and its aureole deposits. To the west of Olympus Mons an evidence exists of well-defined young flow fronts. Presumably flows in this area are either buried by eolian material or so deeply eroded as to be unrecognizable. Postscarp lava flows either did not occur on the west side of Olympus Mons or were of such small volume that they were unable to surmount the upturned edges of the scarp. Boundaries between pre- and postscarp flow units on Olympus Mons are not distinct. Crater counts indicate that two slightly different age groups may be present, but the reliability of the data is limited by difficulties in selecting representative areas for each unit and errors inherent in distinguishing between small impact and indigenous craters on the flanks of a volcano. Evidence that prescarp lava flows exist in places by flow lines sharply truncated at the scarp and by exposures of more mature surfaces in windows along its raised edge. Alternatively, vertical displacements producing the basal scarp around Olympus Mons may have occurred episodically. Intermittent lava flows down the flanks of the volcano throughout the interval of scarp formation could result in the present configuration of pre- and postscarp flows in different places.

Flows from the summits of Arisia Mons, Pavonis Mons, and Acheron Montes are among the youngest in the Tharsis region. They appear to be relatively thin, with smooth surfaces and indistinct flow fronts; their boundaries with other units are difficult to define. These lava flows originated from large fractures and fissures along northeast-southwest faults transecting the crestal areas of the Tharsis Montes volcanoes.

**TECTONICS**  
Tectonics, as expressed by fractures and faults, culminated before the bulk of the lava flows in the Tharsis region were extruded. It did not cease altogether, however, but continued with diminishing intensity into the period of the youngest flows (Scott and Tanaka, 1980). Early episodes of major faulting were responsible for the highly disrupted surfaces at Charitias, Acheron, Ceramius, and Memnonia Fossae. Faulting continued in these areas at lesser scales and also at Alba Patera, on the Olympus plains, and on the flanks of Arisia Mons. The density of faults associated with individual flow units, the crater density, reflects their relative ages. A summary of tectonic episodes as they relate to major volcanic events is shown in the Correlation of Map Units.

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**STRUCTURE**  
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# MAP SHOWING LAVA FLOWS IN THE SOUTHEAST PART OF THE MEMNONIA QUADRANGLE OF MARS

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