

**CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS**

SYSTEM	SURFACE MATERIALS	CHANNEL AND VALLES MATERIALS	PLAINS MATERIALS	MOUNTAIN AND UPLAND MATERIALS	CRATER MATERIALS
Anaximander	Ada As				
Hesperia-Anaximander		AHf1 AHf2 AHf3	AHh1 AHh2 AHh3	AHm1 AHm2 AHm3	cf c2
Noachian				Nh1 Nm	

**DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

**SURFACE MATERIALS**

- Ada** Debris apron material—Smooth or pitted lobate deposits from slopes at base of mountains. Interpretation: Weathered debris from massive mass moved downslope as viscous or partly fluid mass. Surfaces pitted by collapse of water or ice-rich deposits.
- As** Side material—Irregular, lobate deposits, some at base of canyons; some deposits. Interpretation: Plains materials set during outflow events downslope as viscous mass into channels.

**CHANNEL AND VALLES MATERIALS**

- AHf1** Vallis floor material—Smooth surfaces on floors of steep-walled outflow channels. Interpretation: Sediments deposited and smoothed by water during times of outflow in valleys.
- AHf2** Knobby vallis floor material—Hamrocky surfaces on steep-walled vallis floors. Interpretation: Plains materials modified by fluvial processes. Knobs probably partially eroded remnants that collapsed into vallis.
- AHf3** Irregular vallis floor material—Large, smooth, irregularly shaped blocks of rock relief dissected by small channels and small to large fractures. Located at mouth and margin of vallis. Interpretation: Plains materials modified by fluvial erosion in final stages of collapse.
- AHh1** Channel floor material—Smooth surfaces in elongate, sinuous channels; linear and curvilinear features parallel channel margins. Interpretation: Channel deposits containing fluvial erosional and depositional features.
- AHh2** Younger cut-off vallis floor material—Smooth materials in elongate, sinuous channels, crossed by unit AHf3. Interpretation: Channel deposits in younger cut-off channel segments of Dao Vallis.
- AHh3** Older cut-off vallis floor material—Smooth surfaces in elongate, sinuous channels; similar to materials in unit AHf3; crossed by younger channel units AHf1 and AHf2. Interpretation: Channel deposits in older cut-off channel segments of Dao Vallis.

**PLAINS MATERIALS**

- AHm1** Pitted plains material—Smooth material with regularly spaced, shallow, circular depressions. Interpretation: Partially collapsed water or ice-rich debris or materials modified by deflation.
- AHm2** Mesa material—Smooth, flat topped features bounded by irregular scarps; topography higher than surrounding plains. Interpretation: Erosional remnants of sedimentary mass.
- AHm3** Smooth plains material—Forms plains of slight to moderate relief but no narrow, sinuous channels; forms low plateaus east of Harmakhis and Reull Valles. Moderate albedo. No primary volcanic features visible. Modified to form giant regularly spaced ridges in western third of map area. Related sinuous features (pitted) are smooth and topography equal to or just higher than the plains on which they rest. Younger channels and the margins of these ridges, sinuous features in some places. Interpretation: Sedimentary deposits modified by fluvial and possibly periglacial and eolian processes. Large irregular blocks in initial stages of collapse from sagging and dissection. Related sinuous features may be paleochannels filled with material slightly more resistant than surrounding plains. Together with the larger channel deposits (unit AHh1) the smooth plains material defines paleochannel networks that flowed south and later were crossed by Harmakhis Vallis. Ridge ridges may have resulted from subsidence.

**MOUNTAIN AND UPLAND MATERIALS**

- Nh1** Hellas basin material—Rugged, conical uplands modified by erosional processes. Interpretation: Ancient craters material and uplifted during periods of heavy impact cratering, modified by erosion. Processes to form topography less angular than blocks of mountainous material (unit Nm).
- Nm** Mountainous material—Forms steep, sharp-crested, isolated blocks from 3 to 45 km long; also forms semicircular ridges. Interpretation: Ancient craters material faulted and uplifted during periods of heavy impact cratering; form old crater rims in map area.

**CRATER MATERIALS**

- cf** Crater filling material—Smooth, relatively featureless deposits partly filling some craters. Interpretation: Sedimentary fill, probably volcanic.
- c2** Material of well-preserved craters—Fresh-looking craters having sharp, continuous rim crest, steep inner wall, and well-defined, continuous, often lobate spillover blankets extending into crater diameter or more beyond rim crest. Commonly superposed on materials of Anaximander to Hesperian age. Ejecta blankets not mapped where poorly resolved on images. Interpretation: Younger craters in map area.
- c1** Material of moderately degraded craters—Partly eroded, rounded rim crest; ejecta deposits extend around crater less than one crater diameter where mappable. Interpretation: Moderately old craters.
- c0** Material of highly degraded craters—Faulted and discontinuous rim crest; ejecta deposits not recognizable or form narrow outer rim. Ejecta blankets partially buried by younger units. Interpretation: Oldest crater materials in map area; some may be Noachian age.

Base from U.S. Geological Survey (1986a, b, c)  
SCALE 1:1,000,000 (1 cm = 100 km) AT 17°27'N LONGITUDE  
TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION  
Kilometers 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200  
Prepared in part of the Planetary Geology Program, Solar System Exploration Division, Office of Space Science, National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Edited by David G. Hirsch, cartography by Debra A. Cass  
Mission approved for publication December 21, 1998

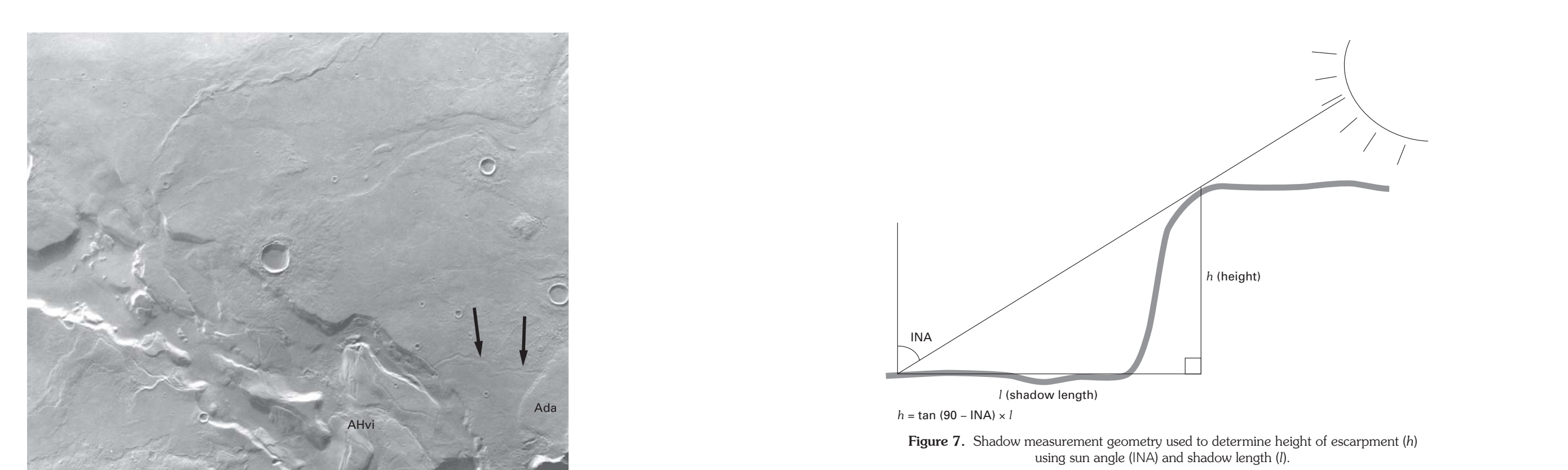
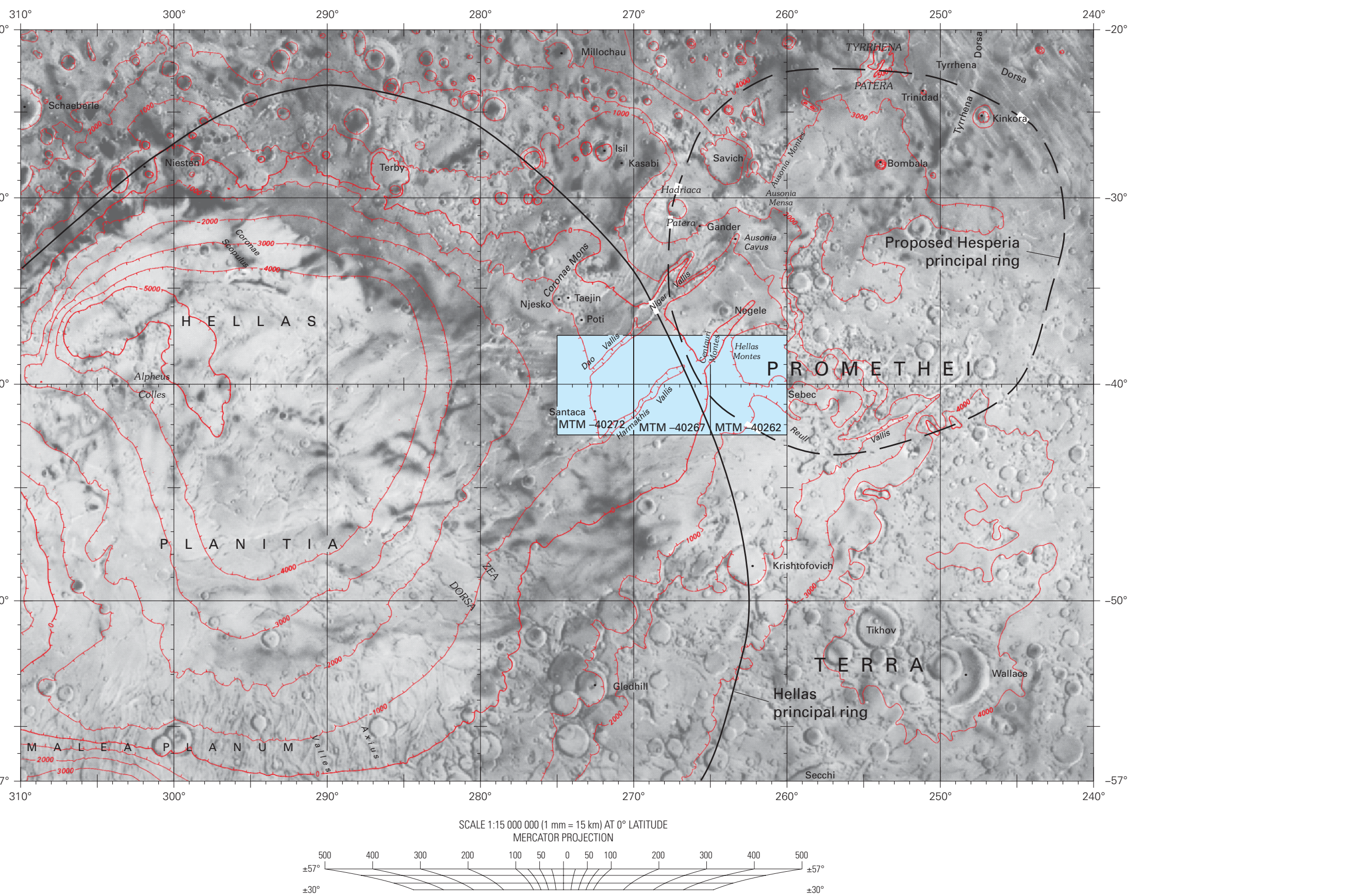


Figure 4. Partially collapsed smooth plains at the head of Harmakhis Vallis form irregular vallis floor material (unit AHf1). Partly buried channel on the upland surface (arrow) extends from under debris apron material (unit Ada) and is crossed by Harmakhis Vallis. Viking Orbiter image 40S0574.

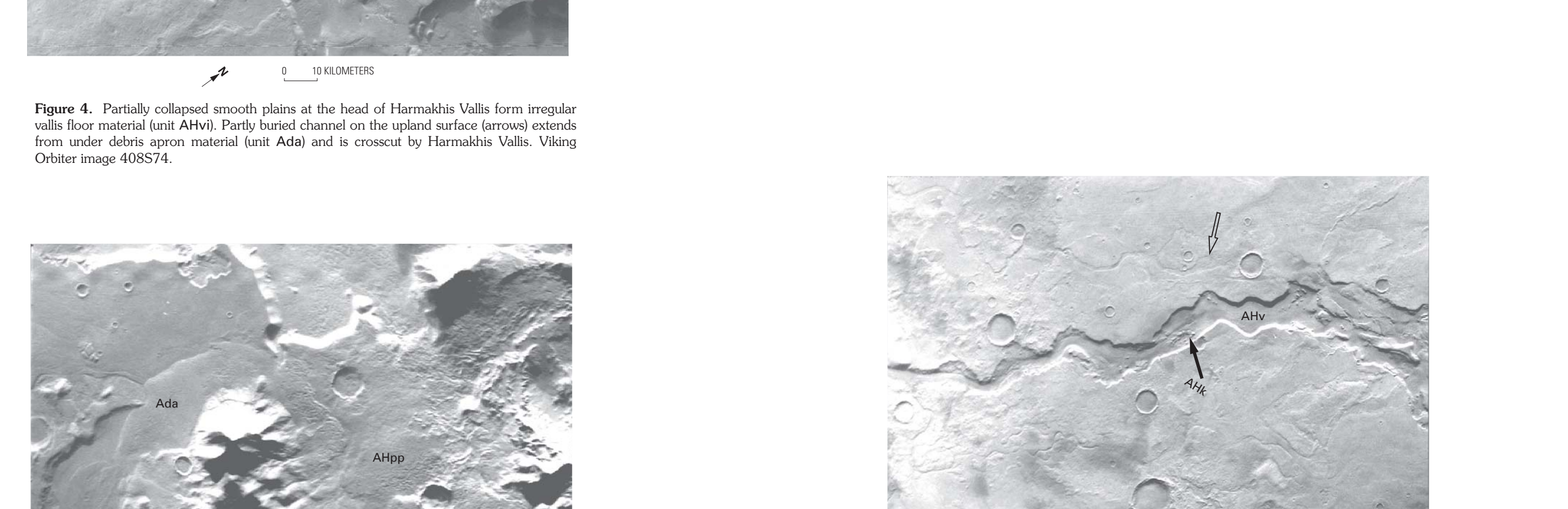


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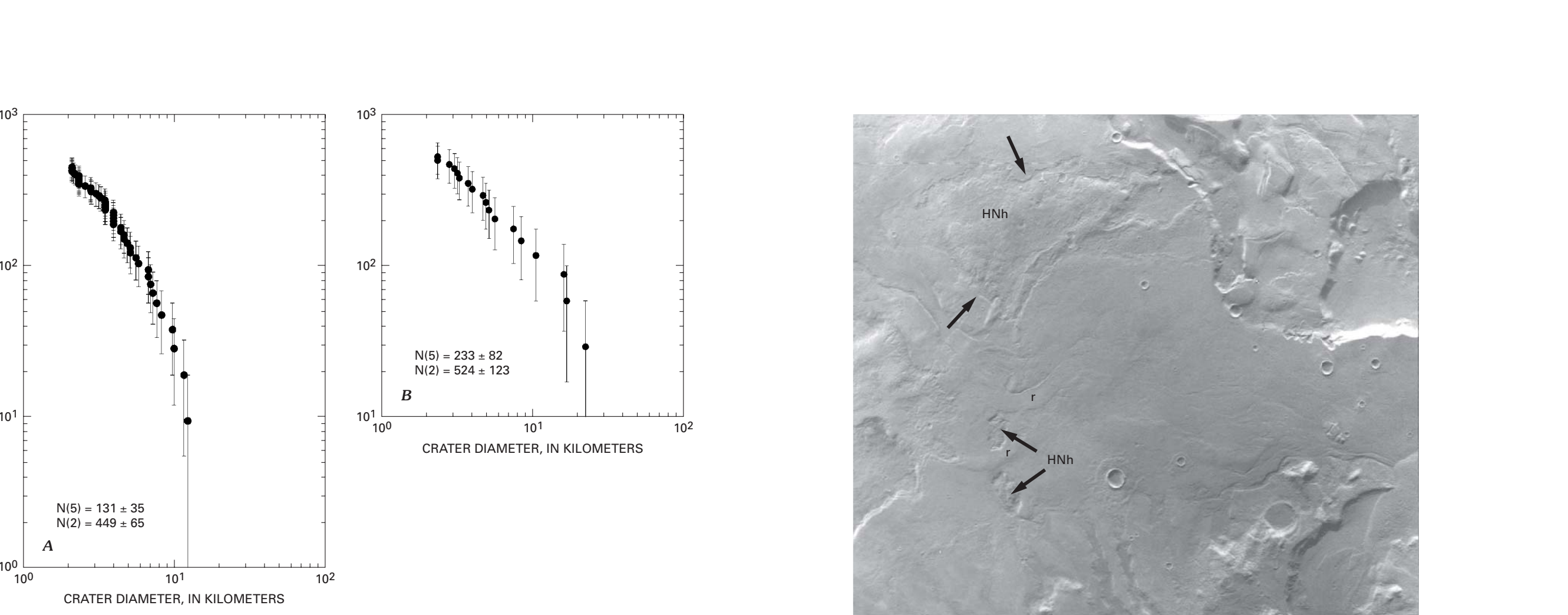


Figure 2. Crater counts for (A) smooth plains material unit Hps, quadrangles 40262, 40267, 40272 and for (B) hummocky plains material unit Hh1, quadrangles 40267, 40272, N22 and N53 are the numbers of craters of width greater than 2 and 5 km, respectively. Vertical bars attached to each point are error bars and represent the range of one standard deviation. These units were mapped as one unit AHf1 by Crowe and others (1992).

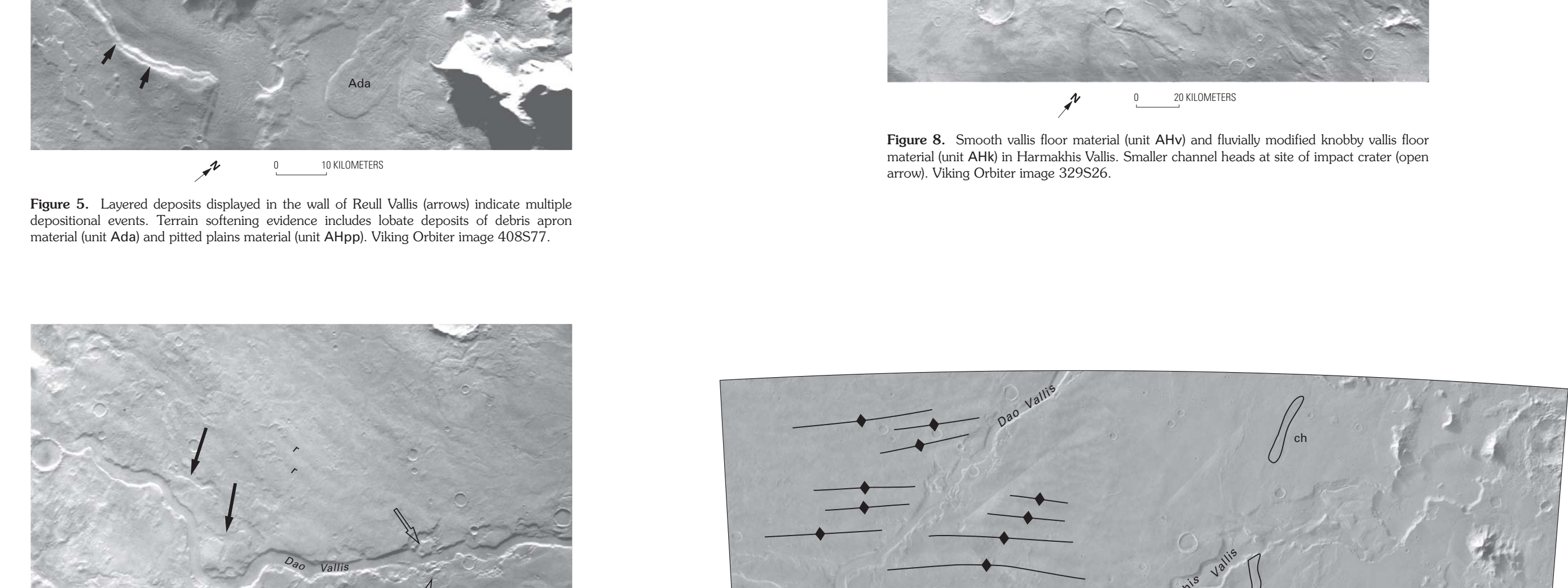


Figure 3. Sinuous ridged features (labeled d) on smooth plains material unit Hps. Sinuous ridged features shown east of unit Hps with stippled (h) facing escarpments (arrow) form windows on underlying hummocky plains material unit Hh1. Viking Orbiter image 40S0576.

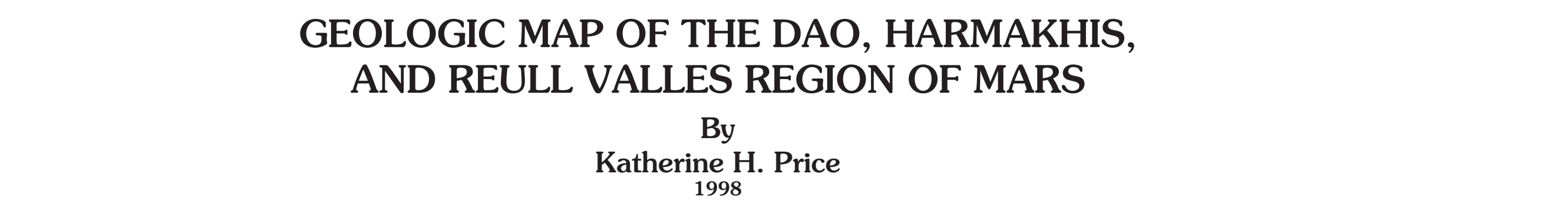


Figure 6. Large-scale ridges (r) and conate features (c) on smooth plains material unit AHf1. Irregular vallis floor material (unit AHf2) along Dao Vallis shows with open areas. Cut-off vallis floor materials units AHf1 and AHf2 indicated with solid areas. Viking Orbiter image 36S555.

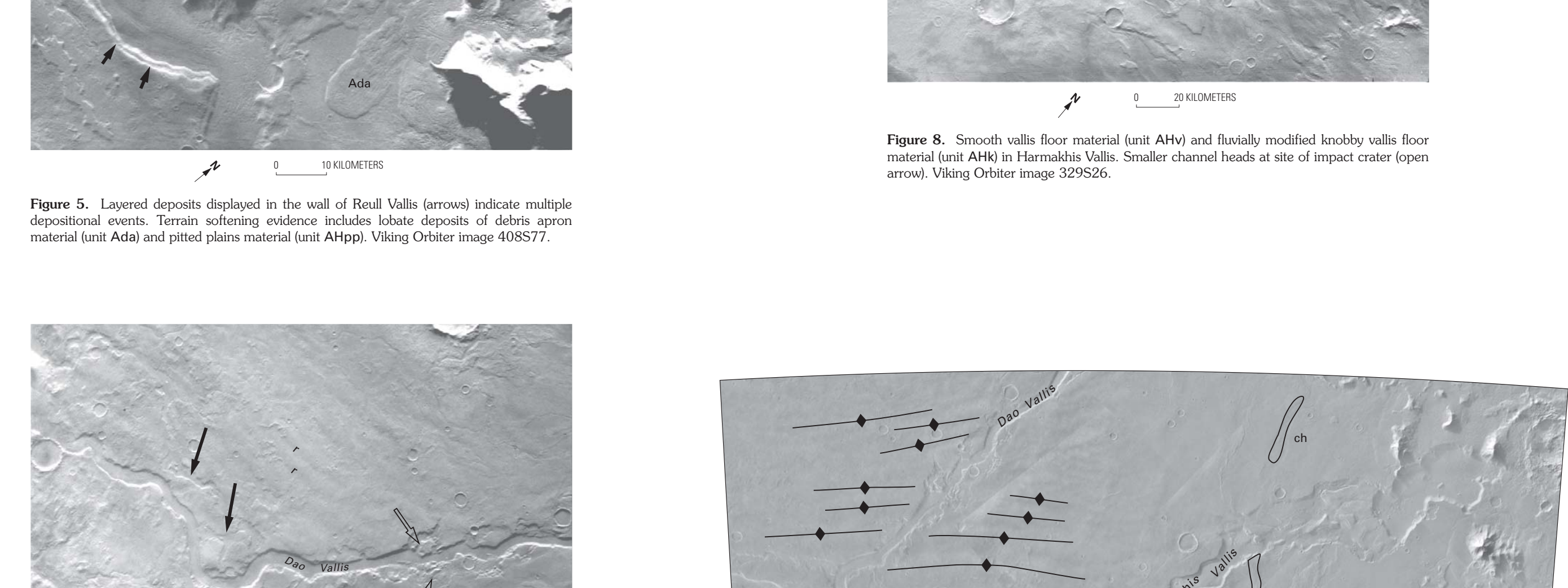


Figure 5. Layered deposits displayed in the wall of Reull Vallis (arrow) indicate multiple depositional events. Terrain softening evidence includes lobate deposits of debris apron material (unit Ada) and pitted plains material (unit AHf1). Viking Orbiter image 40S0577.

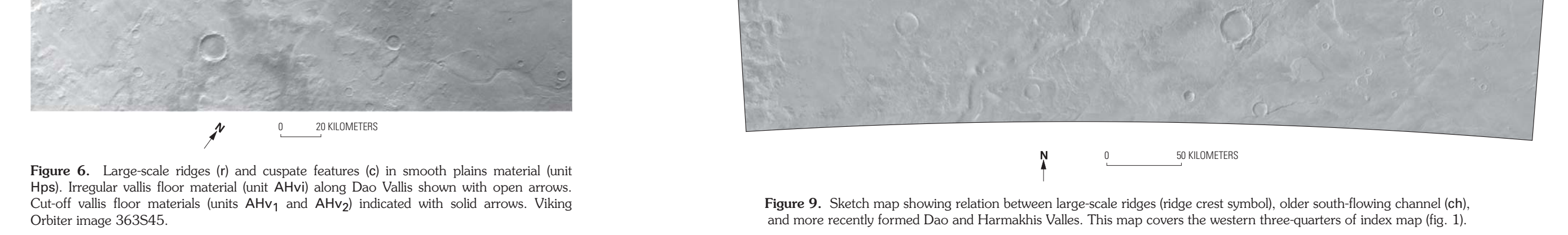


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or, more likely, to thermokant modification of the surface material that overlies an ice-rich substrate. Thermokant topography is generated from softening and partial collapse of ice-rich surface materials, generating a hummocky, irregular surface. These surface materials may consist of sediments shed from nearby Noachian highlands, or they may be eolian deposits derived from a combination of local and more distant terrain. Alternatively, the surface materials may be loess that were eroded from local sources through which the underlying hummocky plains material is exposed (fig. 3). Sinuous features, having positive relief and white margins in places, are also seen in the smooth plains unit (fig. 3). These features are interpreted as former channels that were filled with material which is now more resistant to erosion than the surrounding plains materials, and they are topographically inverted. These resistant materials may have originated as loess that leached from loesses, through sources for the loess flows are not evident in the near vicinity. A sedimentary origin is more likely, as meltwater or sediment laden water from the release of ground water under pressure might have filled the preexisting valleys. In order for the resulting sedimentary materials to be more resistant than surrounding materials, they must have been cemented or laden with large clasts. Proposed catastrophic flows of ground water (Car, 1979; Baker and others, 1992; Clifford, 1993) would have had the capacity and competence to transport such a sediment load.

In places along the margins of the valleys and at the head of Harmakhis Vallis, both smooth and hummocky plains materials units Hps and Hh1 collapsed during vallis formation and were modified to form large, smooth, irregularly shaped blocks. The collapse of these materials—mapped as irregular vallis floor material unit AHf1, figs. 4, 5—probably occurred following saturation of the plains materials due to melting ground ice at the time of vallis formation.

Along the walls of Reull Vallis, the layered nature of at least two plains units (probably unit AHf1 and Hps) can be observed (fig. 5). The layered appearance is probably a result of differential weathering and erosion, which is due to the units possessing slightly different resistances to weathering and erosion processes and which may or may not follow formal-contraction.

North of Dao Vallis, the smooth plains material unit Hps has a ridged appearance (fig. 6). The ridges are large-scale, gently arcuate, parallel ridges that trend north-south and that occupy more than 2,000 square km. The rhythmic spacing between ridge crests ranges from 5 to 15 km (fig. 6). The ridged topography is crosscut by Dao Vallis, and the ridges are truncated by Dao Vallis. The ridges are less aerically elevated. The large ridges may have formed as glacial moraines; periglacial features associated with permafrost; giant solon, fluvial, or lacustrine ripple marks, or other erosional features. The spacing of the ridges and the rhythmic features suggests that the ridges probably formed by subsidence—the slow downslope movement of permafrost terrain. It is a regional paleogeography that was nearly south about 45 degrees from the slope radial to Hellas along which Dao Vallis flowed is suggested by the nearly east-west ridge trend. The existence of a more southerly paleogeography is also supported by the presence of a channel network near Harmakhis Vallis (discussed below with other channel features). Just south of the large-scale ridges is a line of similarly sized cusped ridges, with cusps ~50 km long trending generally north-south-southwest across the west-central part of the map area (fig. 6). This line of ridges does not have the same morphology as the large-scale ridges and so is likely of a different origin—probably either glacial moraine or old, degraded ventral ridges.

Two other plains units are mapped in the east half of the map area. Mesa material unit AHm1 forms smooth, flat topped features with irregular escarpment margins in the southeastern part of the map area. The larger isolated mesas extend over areas of ~300 km<sup>2</sup>. Shadow measurements (fig. 7) show the mesa escarpments to be ~350 meters high. The escarpments appear to be composed of a former wide-spread deposit, most likely eolian material, which rests on the older smooth plains material unit Hps. Pitted plains material unit AHm2 is associated with mountainous terrain and debris aprons and is situated north of Reull Vallis (fig. 5). Pitted plains are interpreted to be partially collapsed water or ice-rich materials—either low flows or, more likely, sedimentary deposits (Squires, 1979; Squires and Carr, 1986; Crowe and others, 1992; Squires and others, 1992).

**HESPERIAN AND AMAZONIAN SYSTEMS**

Channels within the map area show two distinct morphologies. Younger outflow channels are predominantly and form features called vallis—somewhat degraded trough-shaped valleys that lead to large semicircular depressions and that have a fairly consistent downstream width of ~10 km. Shadow measurements show that the vallis walls stand between 0.75 and 3.3 km above the channel floor. These units are mapped as Dao Vallis, Harmakhis Vallis, and Reull Vallis. The channel floors consist primarily of vallis floor material unit AHf1, which appear to be sedimentary deposits that have been smoothed by fluvial erosion. Irregular vallis floor material unit AHf2 is associated with mountainous terrain and debris aprons and is situated north of Reull Vallis (fig. 5). Pitted plains are interpreted to be partially collapsed water or ice-rich materials—either low flows or, more likely, sedimentary deposits (Squires, 1979; Squires and Carr, 1986; Crowe and others, 1992; Squires and others, 1992).

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**GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE DAO, HARMAKHIS, AND REULL VALLES REGION OF MARS**

By  
Katherine H. Price  
1998