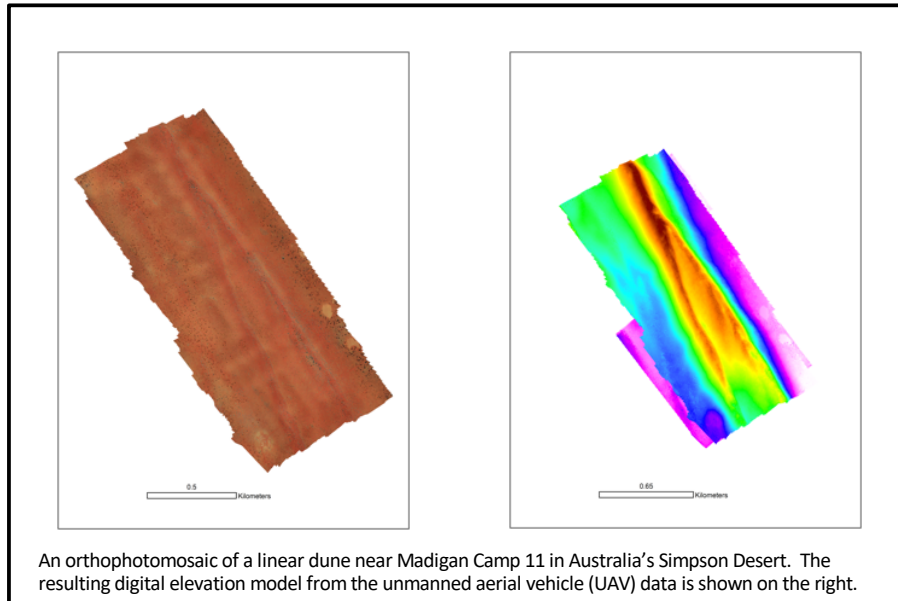
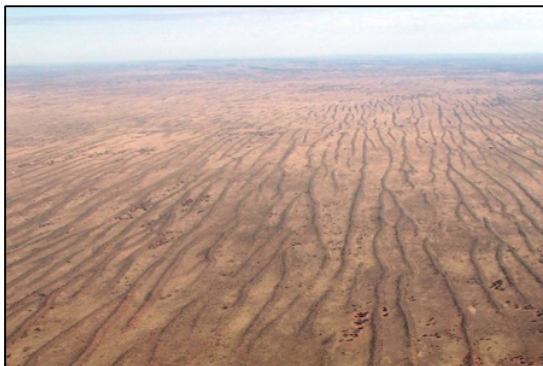


Testing Models of Linear Dune Formation

*Center for Earth and Planetary Studies, National Air and Space Museum,
Smithsonian Institution*



Linear dunes are the only dune form that has been found on all the terrestrial worlds with an appreciable atmosphere. However, we currently have a poor understanding as to how they form. We have been collecting samples from across the Simpson Desert in Australia for two decades to understand how the age and composition of the dunes change by location as a way of testing the different formative models that have been proposed.



The samples for our analysis are being collected here. Notice the length of the auger (7 meters). This is the deepest sample from the base of the dune that is located in the center of the Simpson Desert near Madigan Camp 11.

Visitor: Bob Craddock

Visit dates: N/A- Unable to visit due to COVID-19 restrictions

Bob Craddock is a geologist at the Smithsonian Institution focusing on the early geologic history of Mars and planetary surface processes. Bob also conducts Earth analog studies that include dunes in Australia and Namibia and basaltic landscapes in Hawaii and Iceland.