

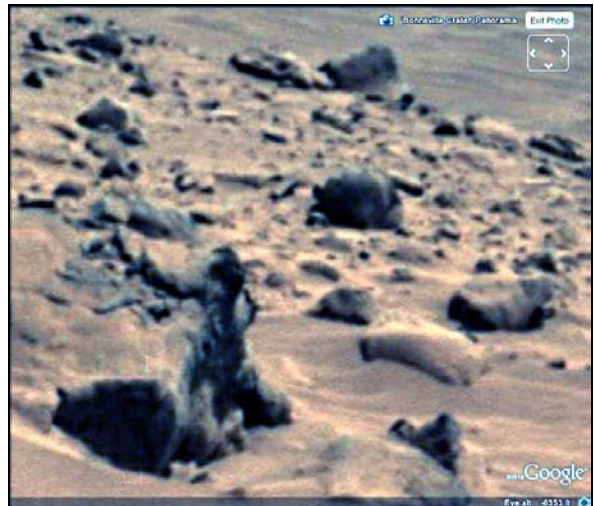
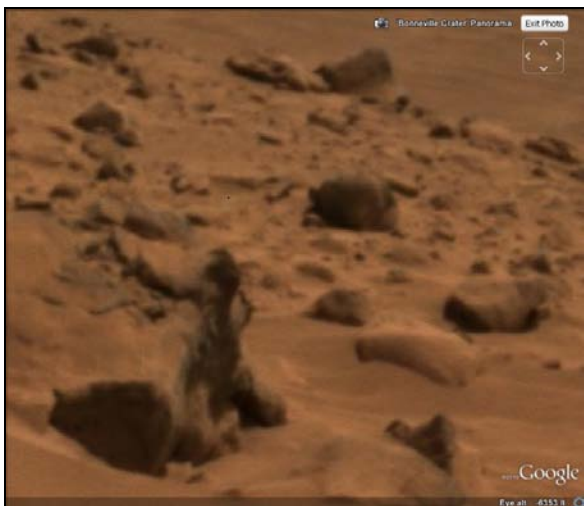


SO RED A PLANET, TOO RED A PLANET

Question asked of MARS: Andy, I am struck by the red coloration of so many of NASA's images from Mars sent to Earth by the NASA Mars Exploration rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity*. Is Mars as red as NASA depicts it? If it is not so red a planet, why are so many NASA images from the Red Planet so reddish?



Andrew D. Basiago, president, Mars Anomaly Research Society (MARS): Mars is a red planet. Its surface is predominantly "rust red" in color. I have likened the Martian terrain to that around Sedona, Arizona. NASA, however, is also heightening the red in its images to diminish the color contrast that would enable us to see things on the surface. Set against Mars' arid, desert terrain, the artifacts and beings on Mars are most readily identifiable based on contrast with Mars' barren landscape produced by form and color. NASA is distorting form by photographing objects on Mars with parameters of feet rather than inches and then condensing the data so that when we enlarge the image detail is lost. It is then composing the color of the images so that they seem washed in a red patina, as if the entire image has been dipped in tomato soup. We see this effect in comparison versions of the same image from Mars in which I found the form that Mars anomalists are calling The Beetle Lady. In the image on the left (*below*), we see only reddish rocks on a reddish hillside surrounded by a reddish atmosphere. In the image on the right (*below*), we can discern enough detail to see the anomaly in the lower left quadrant of the image.



The reddish coloration used by NASA (*left*) obscures the being called The Beetle Lady (*left lower quadrant*), that has a bulbous head and multiple appendages like similar beings seen in PIA10214.