

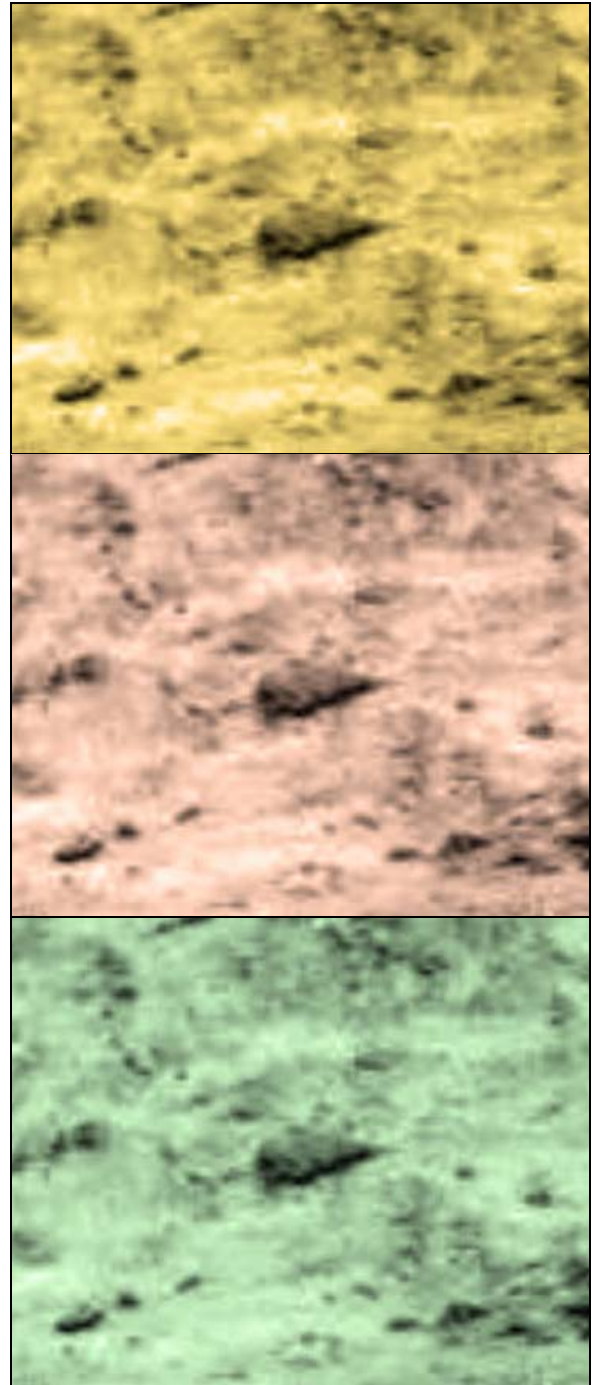


MARTIAN ANIMALS SHOW SESSILE TENDENCIES

Question asked of MARS: Among the animals on Mars that resemble animals that currently exist on Earth, have you identified any traits that differentiate them from similar animals on Earth?



Andrew D. Basiago, president, Mars Anomaly Research Society (MARS): Yes! The life forms that we are finding on Mars show a tendency towards being sessile, by which I mean that we have found many that tend to not move very much or that we find in an unmoving state, as if they are dead or sleeping. While some of the life forms that we are finding on Mars may be statues or fossils, we have found enough evidence of movement among different animals to conclude that Mars is inhabited. A bias towards non-movement, however, persists across the broad sample of Martian life forms that we have thus far found. On Earth, animals that favor immobility do so to adapt to their environment or because it confers a survival advantage in the biological niche that they inhabit. On Mars, which has a nutrient-poor biosphere, a tendency towards immobility, low metabolic function, sleepiness, and, in all likelihood, cold-bloodedness, might confer a survival advantage by enabling animals to not exhaust the energy supply that they derive from their place in the food chain. An example of such a creature is the apparent mammal that Ross Curley of MARS discovered (*right*) that resembles a dog and that we are calling the Martian Hush Puppy. He might be a fossil, but we think the little fella is just fast asleep – conserving his energy – as dogs do on Earth.



Martian Hush Puppy discovered by Curley