

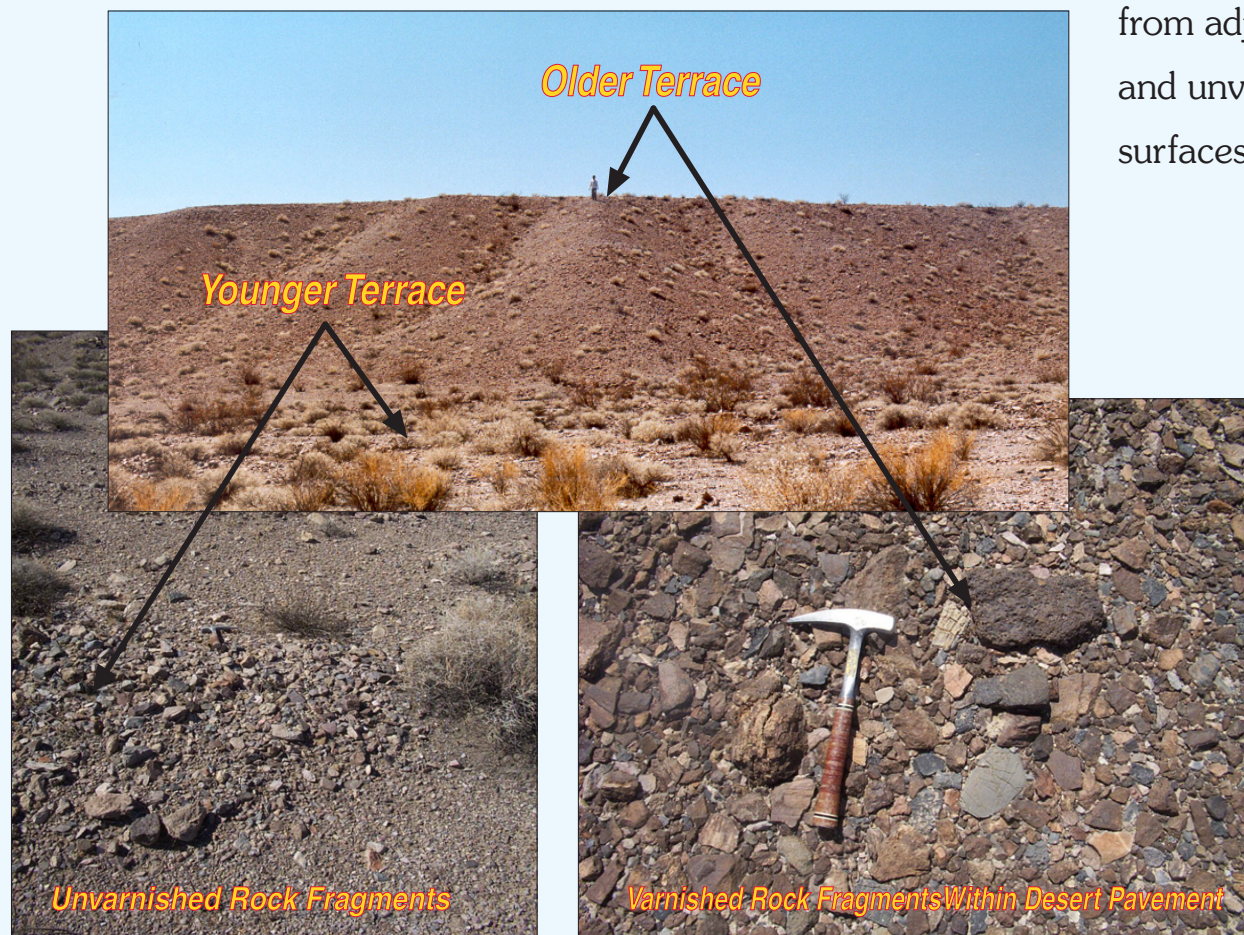
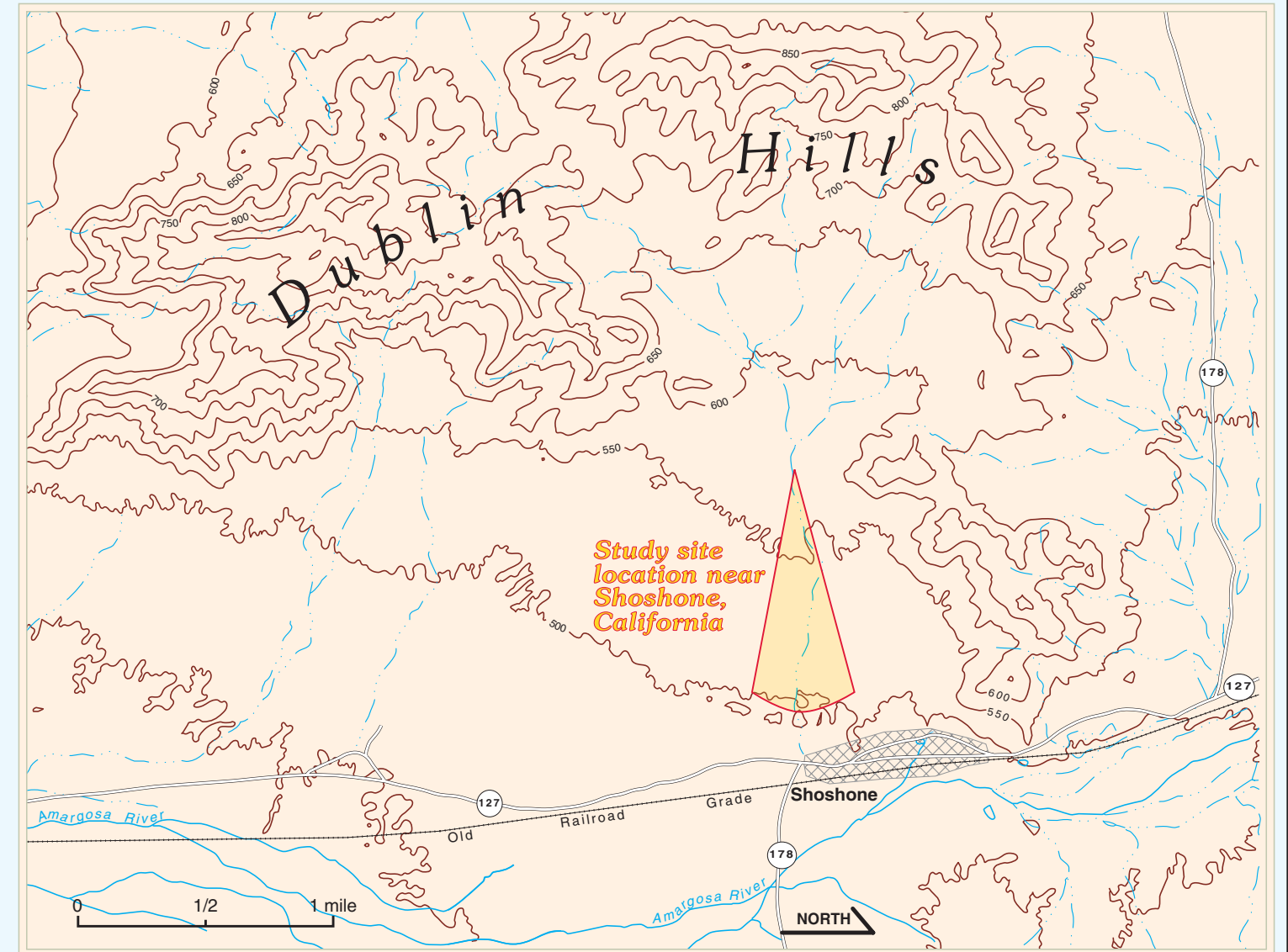
Rock Varnish in Death Valley: Shoshone, California



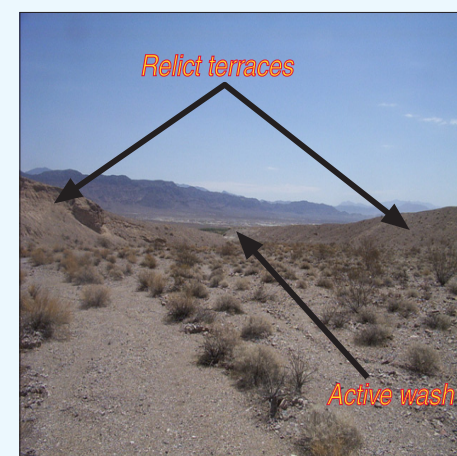
Shoshone, California is one study site location of a Summer 2002 project examining desert varnish on relict lobes on alluvial fans near Death Valley National Park.

Desert Varnish is a shiney dark coating, dominated by manganese oxide, that forms on rocks in arid or semi-arid areas, after long-term exposure to air.

Methods: Rock samples were collected from adjacent varnished and unvarnished alluvial surfaces.



Results: Desert varnish is more prevalent and darker on older, inactive, deflated alluvial surfaces.



Conclusion: Desert varnish is a good indicator of relative weathering, or rate of weathering, on alluvial fan surfaces.



Map compiled by: Kristin Adams
Map source: USGS 7.5 minute topographic map, Shoshone Quadrangle. Location map source: Dick Gilbreath