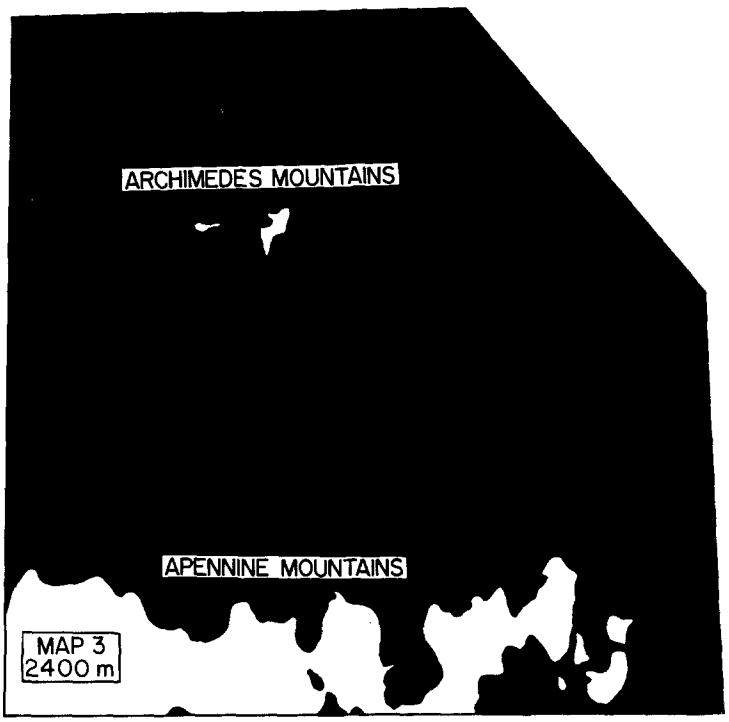

Fig. 8(a–c). Maps of the Archimedes–Apennine Bench region illustrating flooding patterns for various lava thickness intervals. (a) 600 m; (b) 900 m; (c) 2400 m.

3.1. NUMBER OF DATA POINTS

As DeHon (1979a, c) points out, the number of data points within young circular basins is small because of the reduced flux characteristic of post-basin times and the thicker basalts found in basin interiors. For the southern Imbrium region, DeHon's isopach map is based on seven data points (Table I; Figure 11). The Archimedes–Apennine Bench example outlines above however provides lava thickness estimates for the whole sample region.

3.2. RIM HEIGHTS OF FRESH LUNAR CRATERS

Hörz (1978) has pointed out that crater rim crests can undergo rapid degradation without significant change in crater diameter. He further points out that if such degraded craters are used as isopach data points, lava thickness *overestimates* will result because the reduced rim crest is being compared to a fresh (topographically higher) example. This problem is significant where craters have undergone measurable degradation. However, the rate of crater degradation is directly related to the impact flux. Craters over a few kilometers in diameter formed in the last 3.7–3.8 b.y. (during the period of reduced impact flux) have undergone little significant morphologic or morphometric degradation (Head, 1975a). The Imbrium basin formed in the terminal stages of the period of high flux and produced