ON COVER — The Panamint Dunes in Death Valley National Park, California, U.S., a few days after the last rain in March 2011. The bimodal grain size distribution in this active star dune is nicely visible as coarse-grained parts have already dried up, while fine-grained successions are still moist. The Panamint Dunes serve as a modern analog for the gas-bearing sandstones of the Upper Permian Rotliegende in Northern Germany. However, such bimodal grain-size distributions in sandstones are found widespread over the western United States, e.g. at the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Utah and Vermillion Cliffs in Arizona. See related article by Antrett et al. p. 1279, this issue of the Bulletin. Photo by Philipp Antrett.