



FIGURE 4.22. Iron formations. (A) A banded iron formation (BIF) composed of gray iron sulfides and red chert. Variations in the relative proportions of chert and iron minerals and thicknesses in the layering give rise to “cycles.” (B) A thin-section photomicrograph of a granular iron formation (GIF) where peloids (“granules”) are chert and hematite that are cemented by chert. Width of field ~ 2.5 mm. From Simonson (2003a). In (C) and (D) are outcrop photographs of the Dales Gorge member of the Brockman Iron Formation, a Superior-type iron formation of the Hamersley Group, Western Australia.