



FIGURE 16.9. Carbonate and gypsum layers. (A) Dark layers of upward-directed gypsum crystals that nucleated on surface-formed crystals that sank to the bottom in a shallow brine body. Fine layers are alternations of carbonate and gypsum that precipitated at the surface and sank. (B) Large gypsum "selenite" crystals similar to (A); the layering is defined by light-colored layers of aragonite crystal mud. Some of the aragonite layers continue through the large crystals. In the lower center of the photograph the sharp terminations of the crystal were rounded off by slight dissolution during successive floods.