



FIGURE 16.15. Nucleation of halite at the beginning of the salt-pan cycle. (A) Halite cubes, plates, and a raft of coalesced crystals (right). The out-of-focus cubes are floating at the brine–air interface. The in-focus cubes have sunk to the bottom and become embedded into the mud deposited by the last flood into the basin. Note the various angles at which the cubes have impacted with the bottom. The cubes are up to 8 mm in diameter. (B) Impressions of halite cubes on the bottom of a dolostone layer. A flood dissolved halite cubes similar to those shown in (A) and the crystal molds were filled and preserved by the dolomite.