



FIGURE 16.10. Thin-section photomicrographs of cumulate halite crystals from Miocene salts beneath the Mediterranean Sea. (A) A low-power view of layers of cumulate halite. The scale bar is 10 mm. (B) A medium-power view showing halite fabrics in two light laminae separated by a dark lamina at the bottom of the photograph. The dark centers of the cubes in the light layer are inclusion-rich crystals (interpreted as the original halite hoppers formed at the surface) surrounded by overgrowths that grew during crystal sinking and later welded into the interlocking mosaic now seen. The dark layers are formed by inclusion-rich crystals similar to the cores of the overlying halite without the overgrowths. The scale bar is 2 mm. Photographs courtesy of T. K. Lowenstein.