



FIGURE 11.16. The history of tiering of suspension-feeding communities above and below soft substrates. Heaviest lines represent maximum levels, with other lines indicating tier subdivisions. Boundaries are dashed where inferred. Burrowing depths were limited until the Pennsylvanian and the development of meter-deep burrows of *Ophiomorpha*, polychaete worms, and other worm-like forms. Bivalves developed deeper burrows in the Early Mesozoic and gastropods began to burrow as well. Echinoids join the deep tier levels in the Mesozoic and, particularly, the Cenozoic. From Ausich and Bottjer (1985).