



FIGURE 11.25. Modern and ancient microbial laminites. Images (A) and (B) show modern carbonate microbial laminites from upper intertidal flats of the United Arab Emirates, Arabian Gulf. From Kinsman and Park (1976). In (A), flat parallel laminae comprise white carbonate mud washed onto the flats during storms and dark cyanobacterial mats. The scale bar is 10 cm. Similar laminae in (B) are disrupted by desiccation cracks. Note also the irregular surfaces of the buried mats. The scale bar is 10 cm. (C) Planar laminae composed of alternations of very fine-grained peloidal grainstone (light) and dark mud interpreted as microbial laminae. Note the small mudcracks (arrows). The scale bar is 5 cm; photograph courtesy of R. W. Mitchell. (D) Wavy and crinkled microbial laminae composed of alternations of grainstones (dark) and mudstones (light). Note the deep desiccation cracks (arrows). The scale bar is 5 cm. Images (C) and (D) are from Lower Paleozoic rocks of western Maryland.