

# Chemical Rocks

Two Main Types:

Carbonates (both biochemical and inorganic precipitates)

Limestones

Dolostones



Evaporites  
(all are precipitates)

Halite

Gypsum/Anhydrite



## Carbonate Rocks

Why do we study carbonate rocks?

Comprise only ~ 20% global sedimentary rocks, BUT

~ 50% of global hydrocarbon reserves (plus most of the world's largest potable water aquifers)

Also common host rock for Mississippi Valley Type lead-zinc deposits

Useful for understanding Earth history because:

- Composed largely of skeletal organisms
- Grains form in equilibrium with surrounding seawater (therefore incorporate stable isotopes and fluid inclusions)
- Extremely sensitive to climatic and eustatic variations

# Carbonate Rocks

## Modern Carbonate Settings



# Carbonate Rocks

- Carbonates capable of syndepositional cement (not predictable properties during burial compaction)
- *Most* deposition in warm, shallow, clean waters



Recent, Marine Cemented Foreshore Strata - "Beachrock", Grand Cayman Island

Inden & Moore, 1983 (AAPG Memoir 33)

# Carbonate Rocks

Composed primarily of skeletal remains of extinct and extant calcareous organisms

Most carbonate sediments formed *in situ*, in warm, clear, shallow marine environments

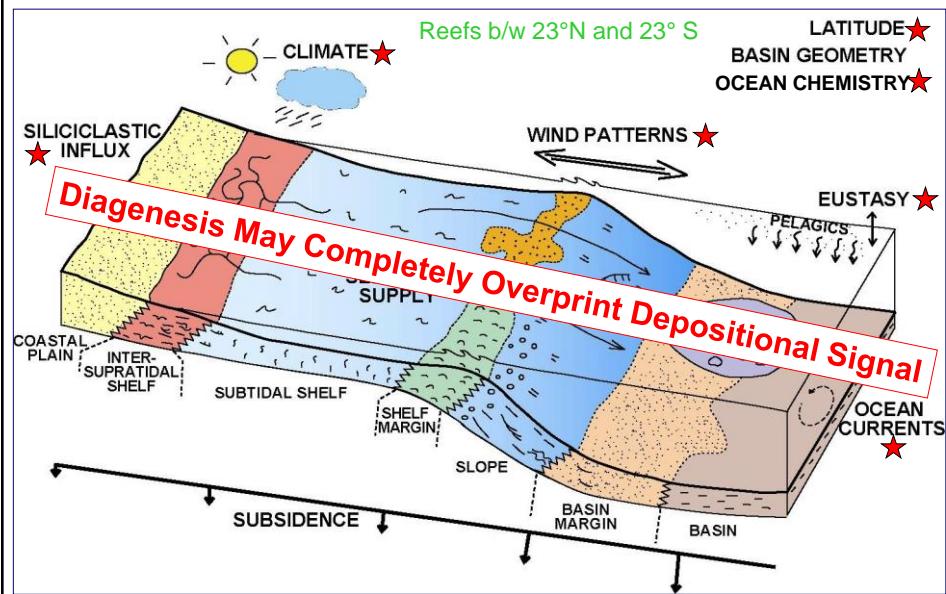
Sedimentation is strongly influenced by environmental factors, such as:

- Temperature
- Water Depth / Light
- Nutrient Supply
- Salinity
- Turbulence / Energy Conditions
- Water Clarity / Light

Also important in paleontology and ichnology (i.e., affect all life)

Size and sorting of sediment influenced by both biological processes and physical transport

## Controls on Carbonate Deposition



## Carbonate Rock Properties: Lithology

Limestone (Calcite, High-Mg Calcite, Aragonite:  $\text{CaCO}_3$ )

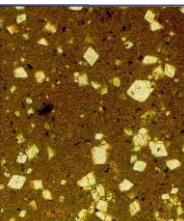
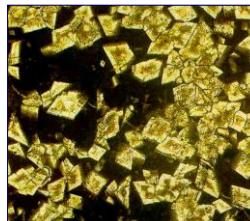


Dolostone (Dolomite:  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ )

Mixed (Dolomitic Limestone; Calcareous Dolostone)

Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )

Anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ )



NB: most workers use "dolomite" for both the mineral name AND the rock name as opposed to dolostone.

## Principal Controls on Carbonate Sedimentation

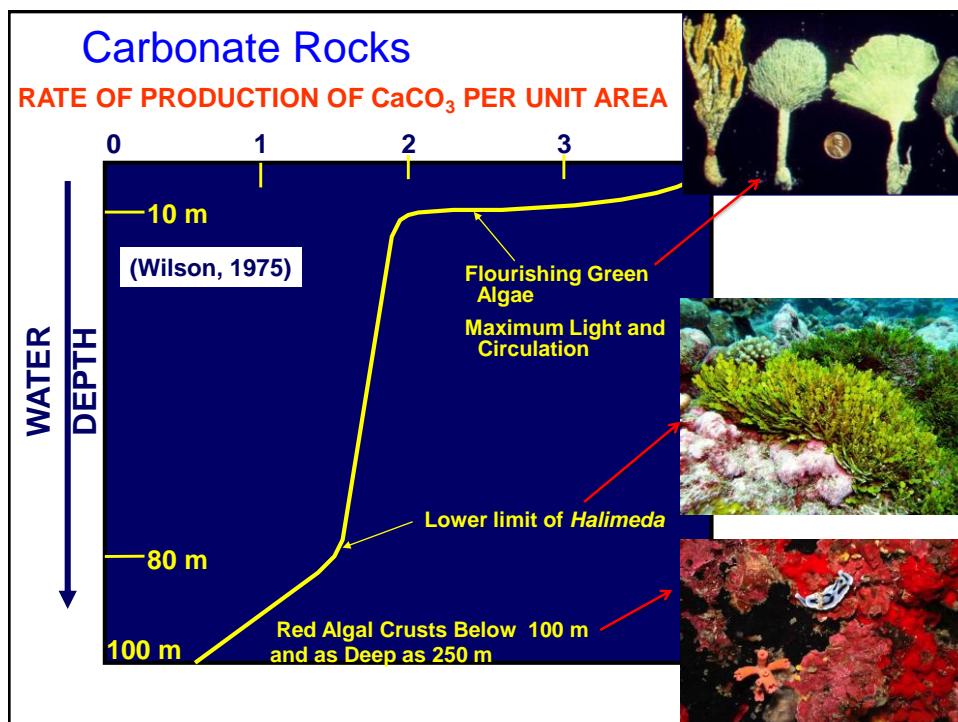
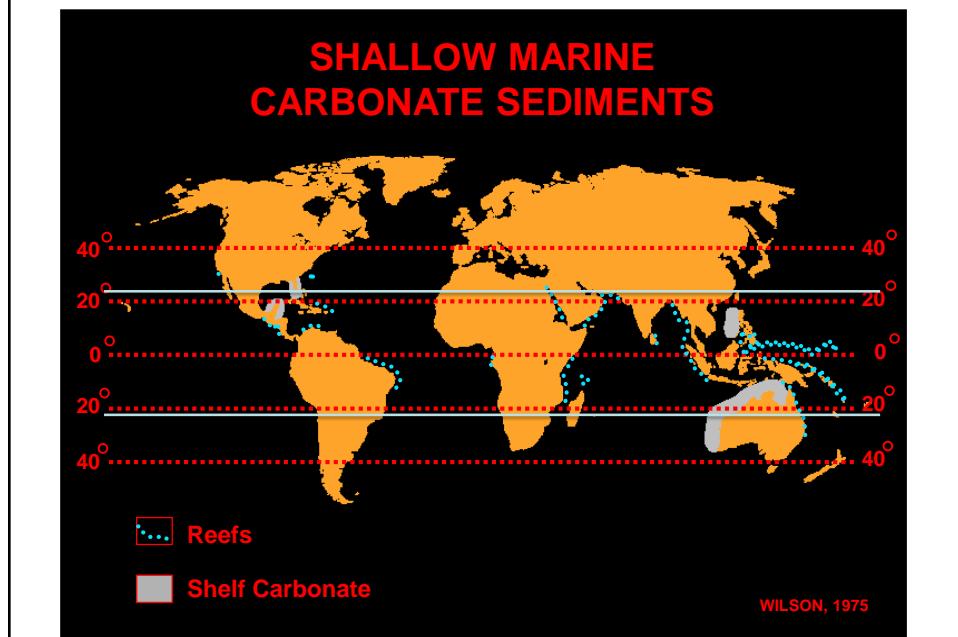
### Water Temperature

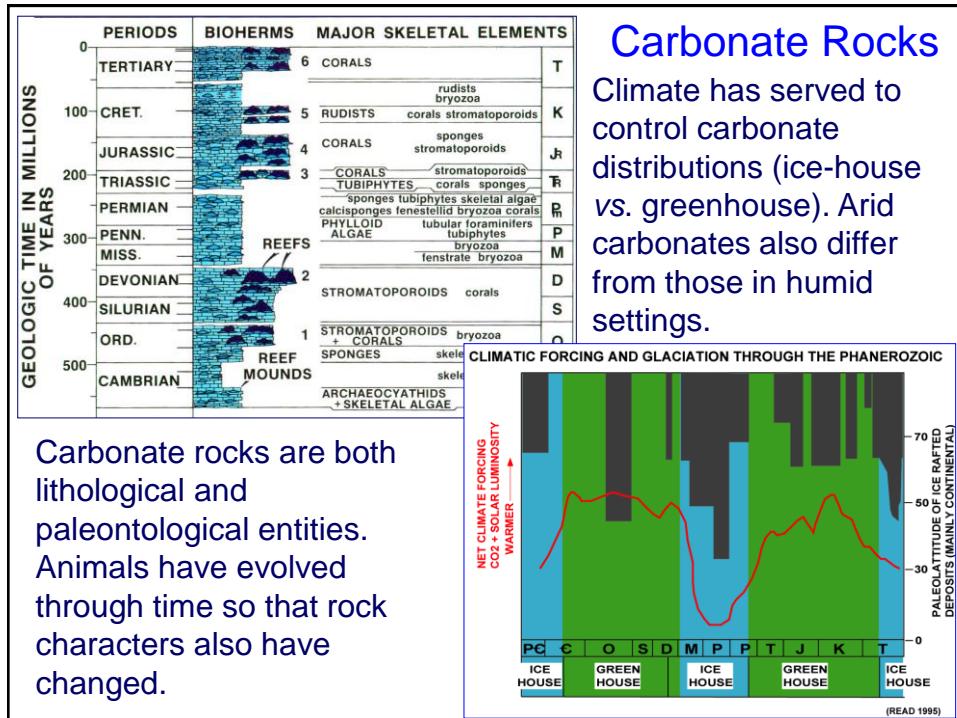
- Major control on distribution of calcite- and aragonite-secreting organisms
- Most modern deposition occurs within  $30^\circ$  of the equator
- Skeletal and reef assemblages vary with latitude (water temperature)

### Water Depth

- Sedimentation rates decrease rapidly with increasing water depth (a function of light penetration through water column)
- Most productivity occurs in less than 20 m of water (both warmer & with more light)
- Proxy for relative sea level changes through time

## Carbonate Rock Properties: Latitude





## Carbonate Framework Grains

Carbonate framework grains are separated in two main ways.

- 1) Are the grains skeletal or “inorganic” (though this is not always consistent - e.g., is a fecal pellet “inorganic”?).
- 2) Are the framework elements in place (*in situ*) or have they been transported (i.e., the equivalent of grains or clasts).

**Allochems** are grains that have been transported.

**Biolithic** elements are those that have grown in place (*in situ*) and have not been transported.

## Carbonate Framework Grains: Skeletal Material

Skeletal elements are based on whether they are in place or are grains that have been transported

**Allochems (bioclastic)**  
(Transported)

**Biolithic:** (*In situ*)

Grain expressions are highly variable (differentiation based on particle orientation). However, biolithic grains are always skeletal.

Difficult to ID if fragmented or altered. Hard to prove in hand specimen; challenging in core. Better in outcrop expression.

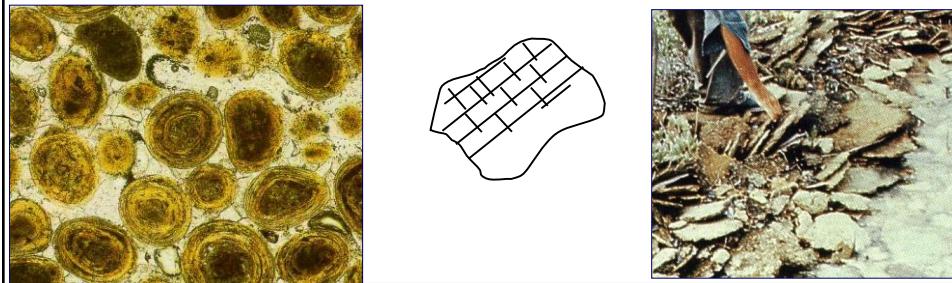
Allochems are a mixture of benthic and pelagic fossil material.



Grain types associated with depositional environments have changed with time and paleogeography

## Allochemical Carbonate Grain Types: Non-Skeletal

- **Ooids:** concentric layers, < 2 mm 
- **Pisoids:** concentric layers, > 2 mm 
- **Oncoids:** algal, concentric layers, > 2 mm 
- **Peloids:** micro- or cryptocrystalline allochem 
- **Pellets:** micrite (microcrystalline) grains, < 1 mm 
- **Intraclasts/Lithoclasts** (equivalent to rip-ups)



## Carbonate Rocks

### Carbonate Cements

- Crystalline fraction produced *via* precipitation or recrystallization
- Types:
  - **Microspar** (4-15  $\mu\text{m}$ ): Commonly *via* micrite recrystallization  
Commonly rim grains
  - **Microspar** (15-60  $\mu\text{m}$ ): mainly precipitated cement
  - **Macrospar** (> 60  $\mu\text{m}$ ): Secondary mosaic void-filling (calcite)
  - **Aragonite**: Needle-like fibrous crystals (early)
  - **High-Mg Calcite**: 'Roman spear' crystals
  - **Dolomite**



# Carbonate Rocks

## Lime Mud (Micrite)

- Comparable to matrix of clastics (same problems)
- Generally microcrystalline calcite
- Origin debated:
  - Disaggregation of calcareous algae
  - Inorganic precipitation (whitings)
- Modern muds consist of aragonite needles (alters to calcite)



# Carbonate Rock Classification

Very different from siliciclastics, so must employ a very different approach to classification:

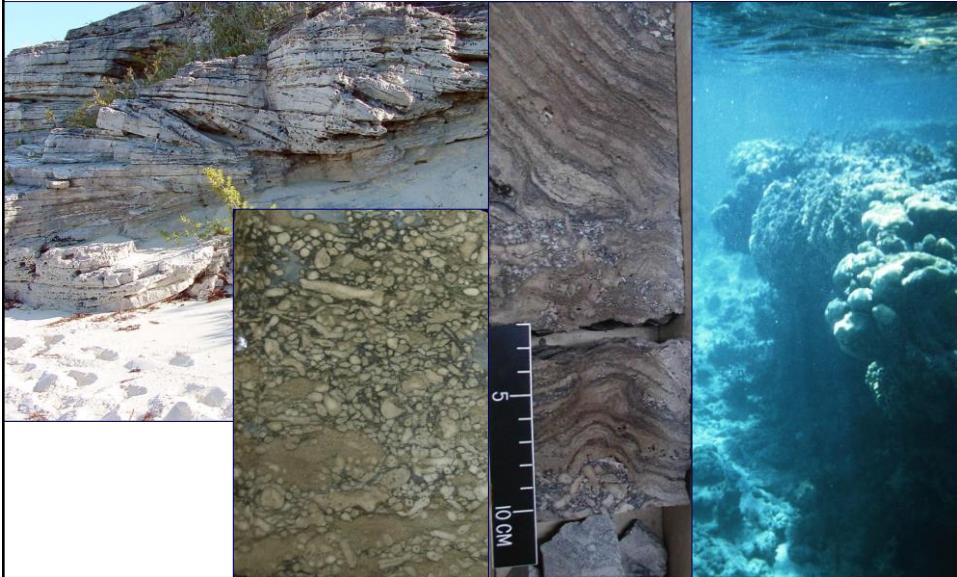
- Essentially consists entirely of intrabasinal material
- **Texture** is critical (grain size, sorting; grain relations)
- **Fabric** is also critical (framework vs. matrix support)
- QFL type diagrams do not work

Schemes do not incorporate non-biological carbonate materials (e.g., travertine, tufa, caliche)

Must include both detrital (allochem) and *in situ* (biolithic) fabrics

## Carbonate Rock Classification

Detrital (allochemic) fabrics vs. *in situ* (biolithic) Fabrics



## Carbonate Rock Description: Basic Rock Properties

Lithology

Colour

Depositional Texture

Grain Type(s) and Matrix

Grain Size and Shape

Sedimentary Structures

Porosity

Pore Type



Scholle, et al., 1983

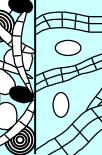
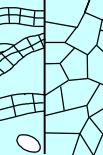
# Carbonate Rock Classification

## Dunham's Classification System (1962):

Presence or absence of mud  
 Packing or abundance of grains (grain- vs. mud-supported)  
 Biologic control on sedimentation

- Easy to remember
- Descriptive
- **Better suited for field observations**
- Typically hints at depositional conditions – relations are related to depositional energy.

# Carbonate Rock Classification

Depositional Texture Recognizable						Depositional Texture Not Recognizable
Original Components Not Bound Together During Deposition				Original Components Bound Together		
Contains Carbonate Mud		Lacks Mud Grain-supported				
<10% Grains	>10% Grains					
Mudstone	Wackestone	Packstone	Grainstone	Boundstone	Crystalline	
						

DUNHAM'S (1962) CLASSIFICATION FOR CARBONATE ROCKS

## Modified Dunham Scheme to accommodate Biolithites

Allochthonous: concerned with original constituents that were once biolitic but have been resedimented.

Floatstone ~ = matrix-supported carbonate conglomerate

Rudstone ~ = clast-supported carbonate conglomerate

Dunham term boundstone expanded to include autochthonous textural/fabric types: bafflestone and framestone.

Allochthonous		Autochthonous		
Original components not bound organically at deposition		Original components bound organically at deposition		
>10% grains >2mm		By organisms that act as baffles	By organisms that encrust and bind	By organisms that build a rigid framework
Matrix supported	Supported by >2mm component			
Floatstone	Rudstone	Bafflestone	Bindstone	Framestone

Textural classification of reef limestones after Embry & Klovan (1971) and James (1984)

## Dunham (1962) Classification

Original components not organically bound together during deposition				Components organically bound during deposition	
Contains carbonate mud			No carbonate mud	BOUNDSTONE	
Mud-supported		Grain-supported			
<10% allochems	>10% allochems				
MUDSTONE	WACKESTONE	PACKSTONE	GRAINSTONE		

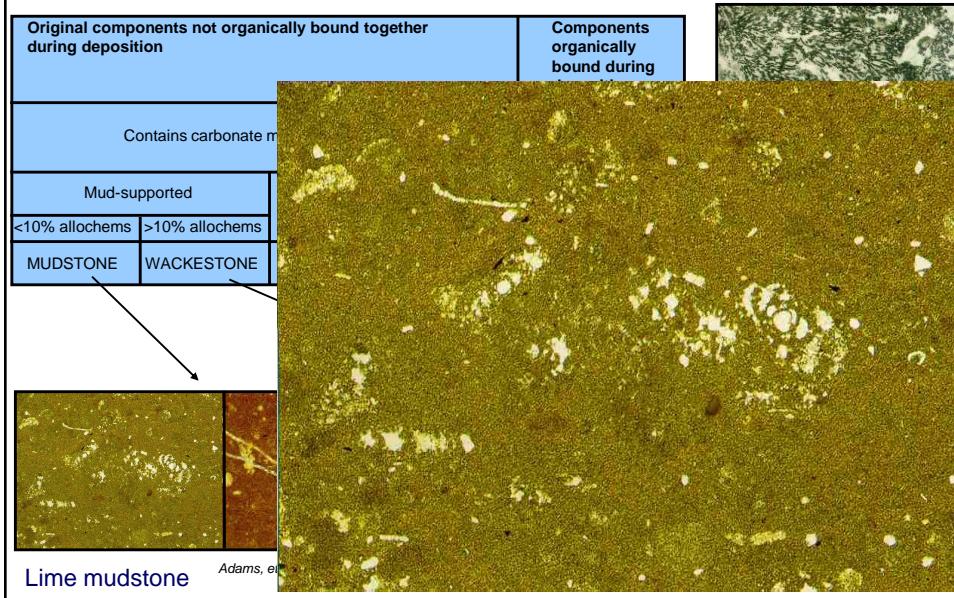
Adams, et al., 1998 (figs. 116, 235)

Adams, et al., 1998 (fig. 201)

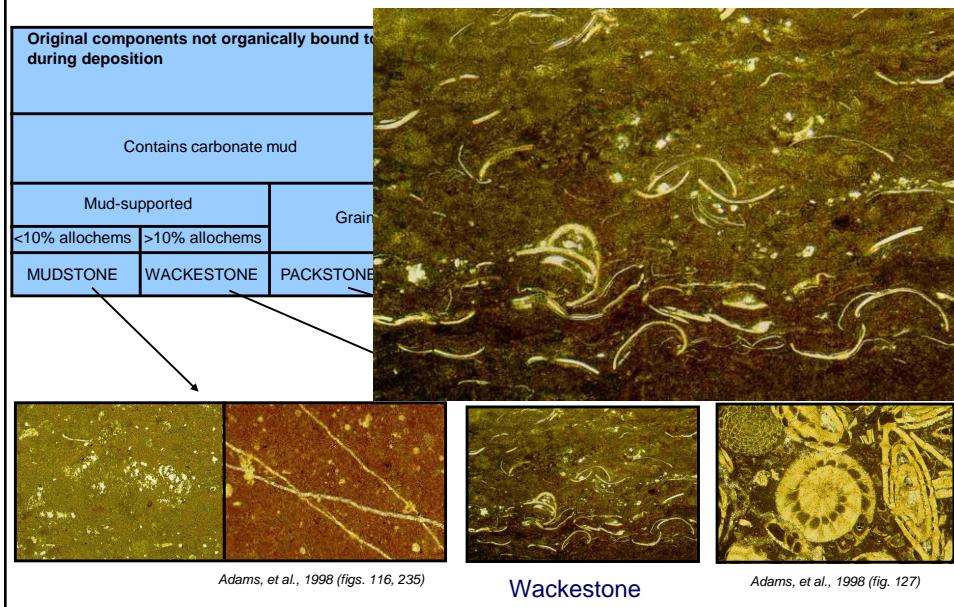
Adams, et al., 1998 (fig. 127)

Schoelle, et al., 1985 (fig. 85)

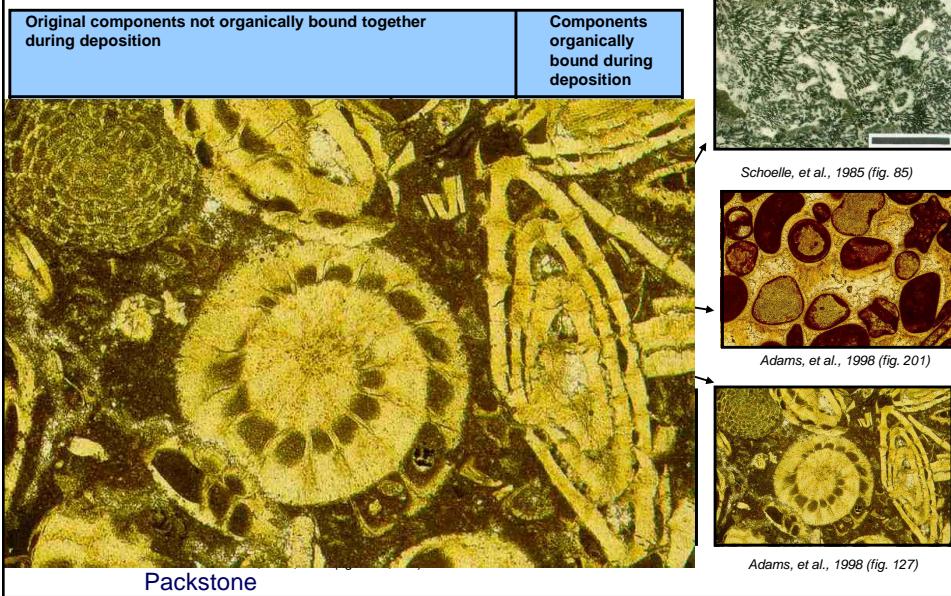
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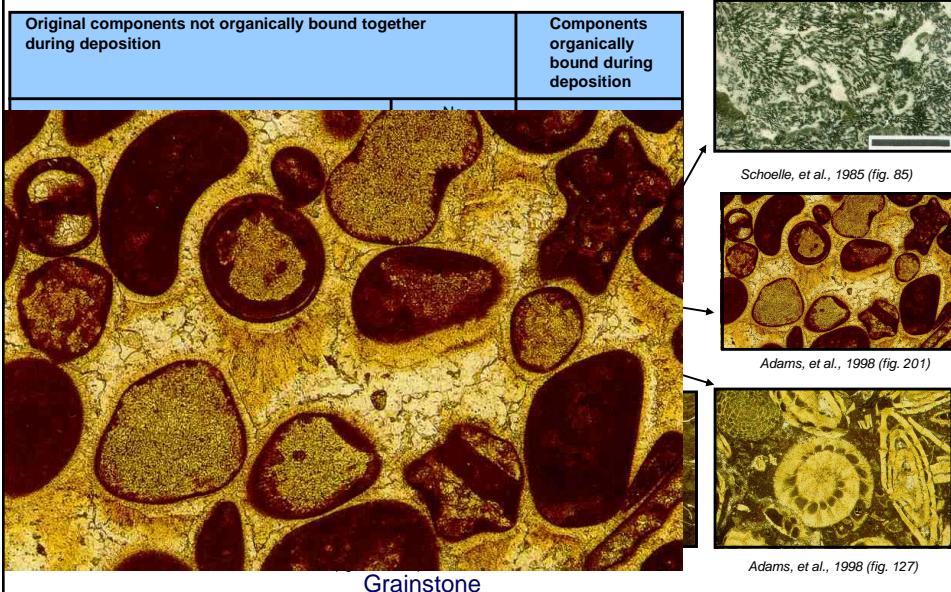
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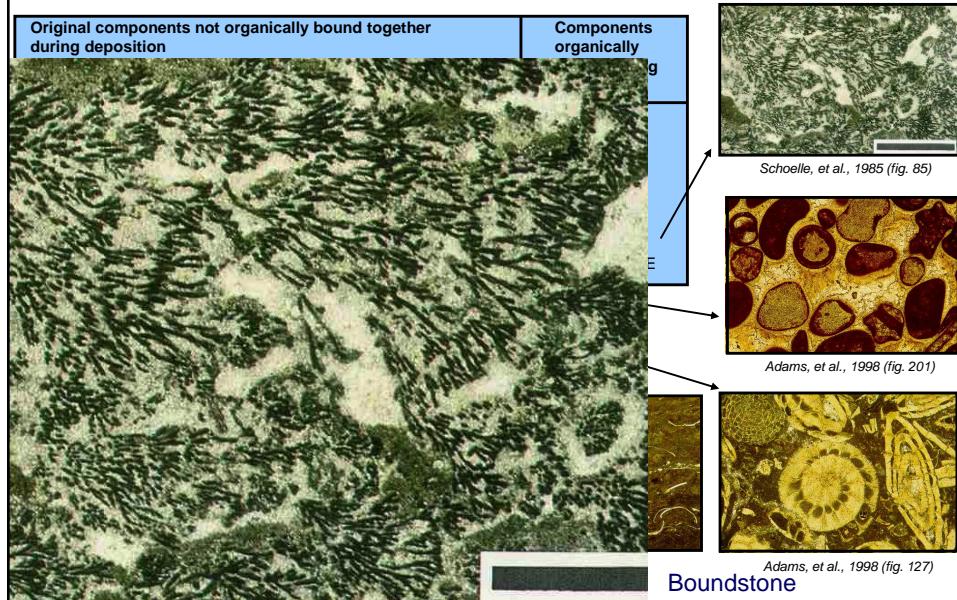
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## Dunham (1962) Classification



## Modified Dunham Classification

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rhodolith

2 cm

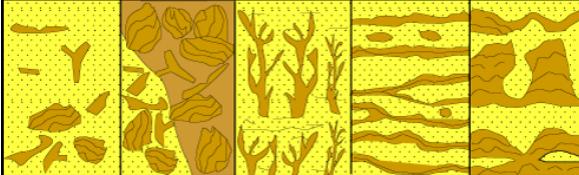
Rhodolith (benthic red algae) floatstone overlain by wackestone

Floatstone

Textural classification of reef limestones after Embry & Klovan (1971) and James (1984)

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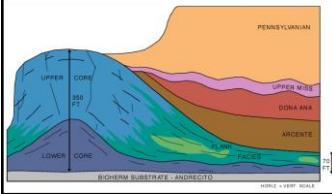
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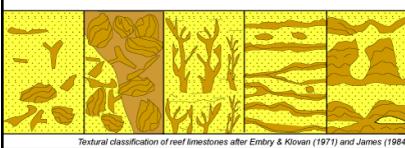


Textural classification of reef limestones after Embry & Klovan (1971) and James (1984)



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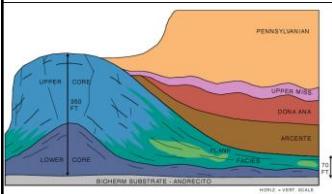


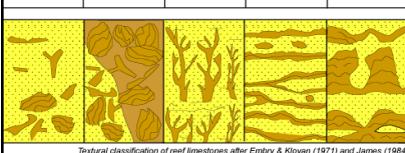


Crinoidal bafflestone and typical Waulsortian bioherms (mud mound with no obvious framemaker)

Serpulid worm burrow bafflestone

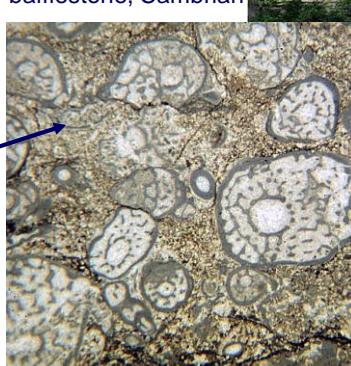
Bafflestone



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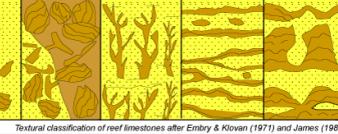
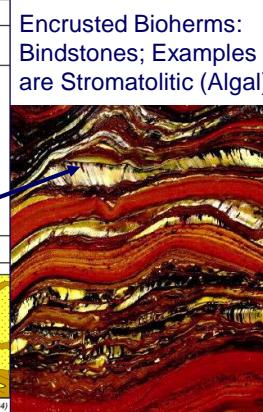
Archaeocyathid bafflestone, Cambrian

## Modified Dunham Classification



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Encrusted Bioherms: Bindstones; Examples are Stromatolitic (Algal)

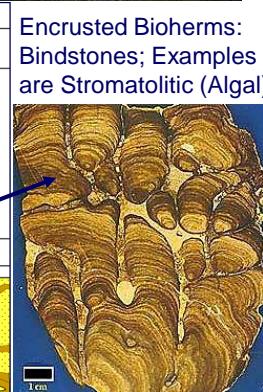
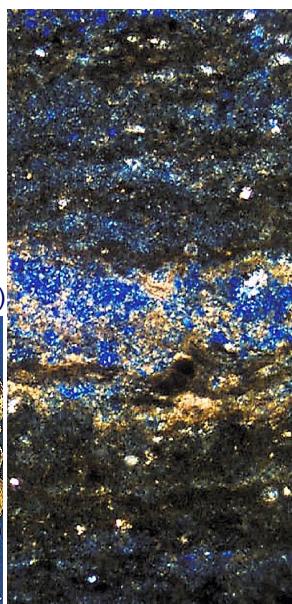

Textural classification of reef limestones after Embry & Klovan (1971) and James (1984)

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Textural classification of reef limestones after Embry & Klovan (1971) and James (1984)

Rigid Bioherms: Framestones; Examples are Branching Corals and Stromatoporoids

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# Carbonate Rock Classification . . .

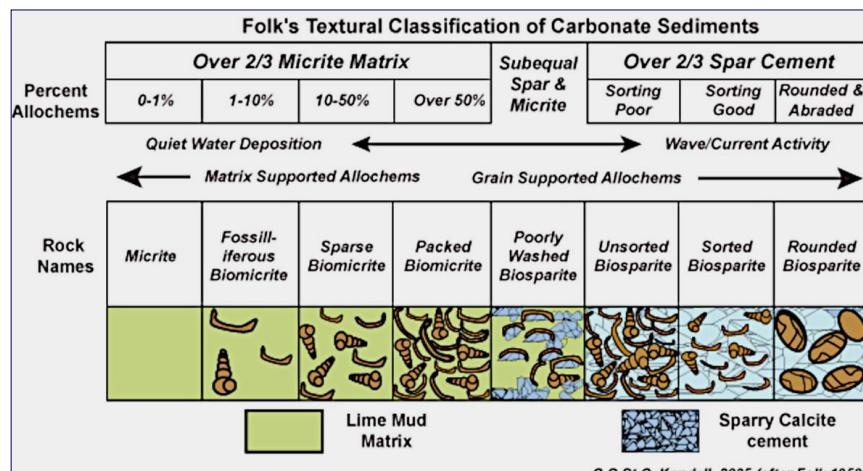
## Folk's Classification System (1962):

- More complex than Dunham, but also textural
- 4 basic material components:
  - Allochems (detrital carbonate **grains**)
  - Carbonate mud (**micrite**)
  - Crystalline calcite (**sparite**)
  - In situ* reef rock (**biolithite**)

Rock names based on:

- % Allochem (by type)
- Allochem vs. matrix
- Sparry cement vs. micrite
- Makes for very long, complex names that often require thin section petrographic analyses to discern.

## Folk's Classification System (1962)

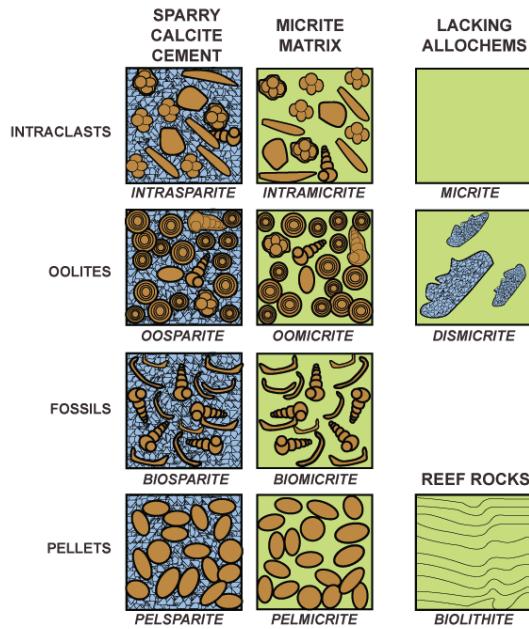


Terminology used if allochems are fossil fragments!

## Folk's Classification System (1962)

Rock names are strongly controlled by dominant grain type, in addition to the importance of cement vs. matrix.

Hence similar rocks characterized by ooids vs. fossil fragments vs. fecal pellets derive different names



## Components of Carbonate Rocks

## Siliciclastics and Evaporites in Carbonate Settings

### Clastics:

#### Common Associations:

interbedded within shallow-water carbonate deposits filling basins adjacent to carbonate buildups

#### Main Controls on Mixed Carbonate-Clastic Deposition:

cyclic and reciprocal sedimentation  
autocyclic changes in sediment supply

### Evaporites:

Gypsum, Anhydrite, and Halite common in carbonates

#### Common Associations:

interbedded with tidal flat or sabkha deposits  
basin-restricted wedges

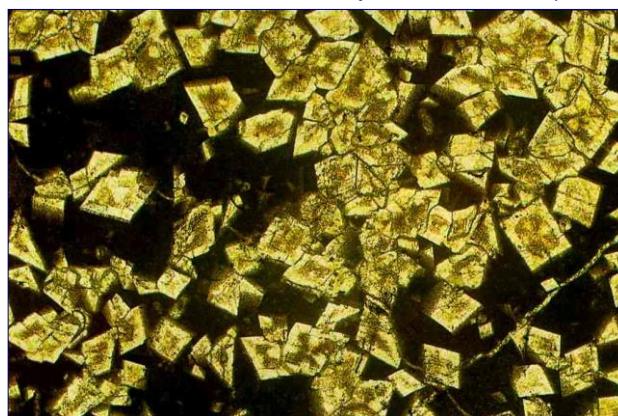
#### Main Controls on Evaporite Deposition:

sea level and climate  
basin geometry and circulation

## Dolostone/Dolomite

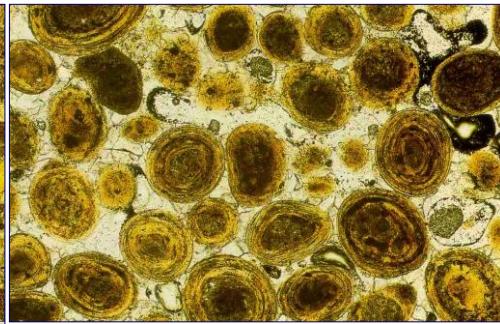
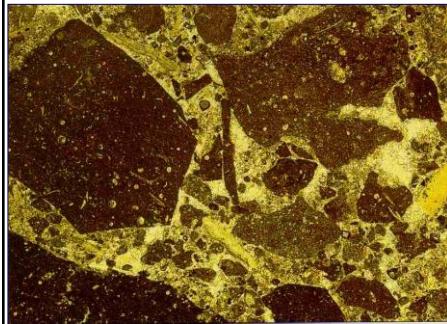
Mg ions replace Ca ions in the crystal lattice

- Less reactive to acid (need > 10% or warm HCl to react)
- More stable in burial conditions
- Commonly disrupts and/or replaces primary calcite fabrics
- Yellowish-buff coloured in outcrop is common (due to Fe)



# Carbonate Grain Types and Matrix

Fossils/Skeletal Grains  
Ooids/Coated Grains  
Pellets  
Intraclasts/Lithoclasts  
Peloids  
Lime Mud



## A Color Guide to the Petrography of Carbonate Rocks: Grains, textures, porosity, diagenesis

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Director, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources,  
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM 87801

Dana S. Ulmer-Scholle

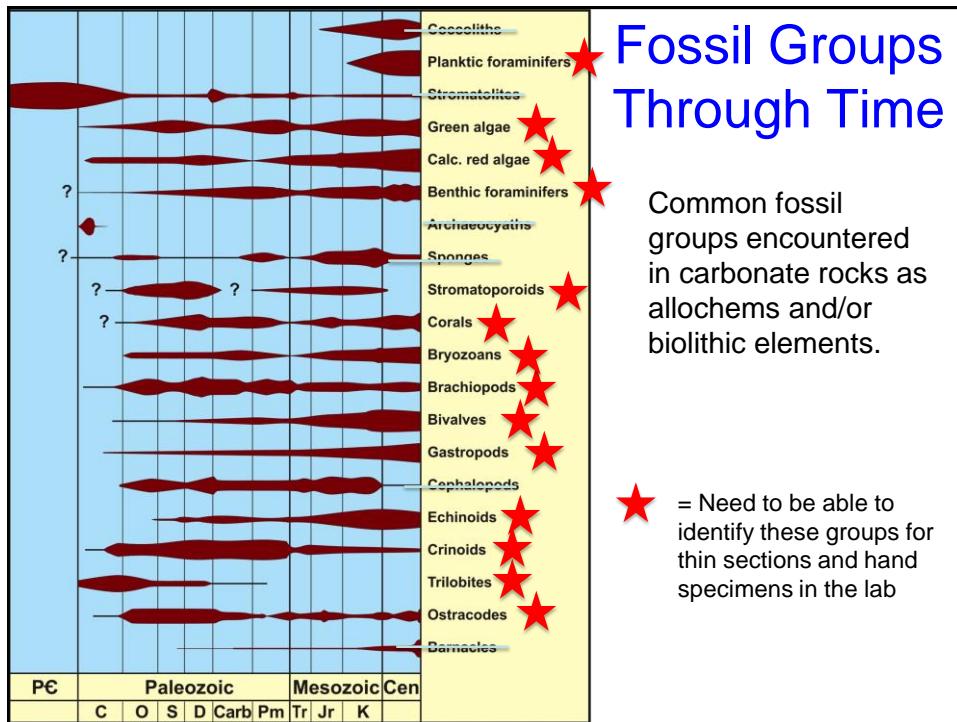
Senior Research Scientist, New Mexico Institute of Mining &  
Technology, Socorro, NM 87801

AAPG Memoir 77

Published by  
The American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A.  
2003

Many images and material sourced from this book.

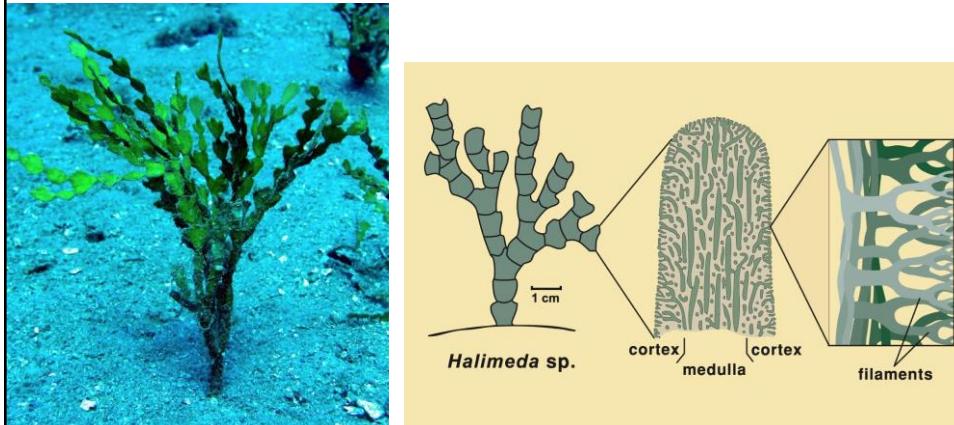
A must-have if you want to pursue Sedimentary Petrology or Carbonate Sedimentology!



CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION										
					Diagenesis					
SAMPLE:	ROCK NAME				Matrix Type(s) and %:					
<b>Megascopic Description</b>										
Colour (Fresh):	Colour (Weathered):				Sample Quality:					
Crystal Size:	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.):				Cement Type(s) and %:					
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported)					Other Authigenic Minerals:					
Hand Specimen Description:					Compactional Data:					
					Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective)					
					Porosity%:					
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History:										
<b>Thin Section Description</b>										
Allochem%:	Micrite Matrix%:			Sparite (Cement)%:						
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported)					Micritized Grain Margins:					
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>										
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)		Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)								
Corals:		Ooids:		Representative Thin Section Description:						
Brachiopods:		Peloids:								
Bivalves:		Pisoids:								
Gastropods:		Intracrysts:								
Bryozoans:		Aggregate Grains:								
Echinoderms:		Lithoclasts:								
Ostracodes:		OTHERS:								
Calcareous Green Algae:										
Calcareous Red Algae:										
Foraminifera:										
Radiolarians:										
Stromatoporoids:										
Ooids:										
<b>Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s):</b>										

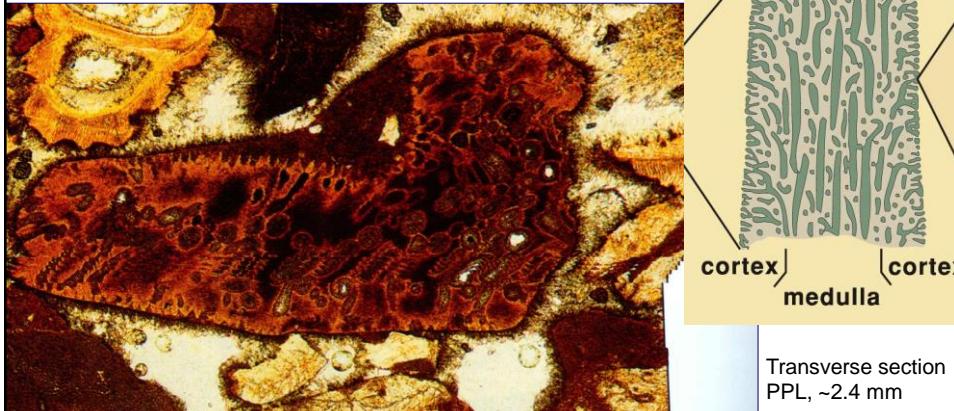
**Green Algae — *Halimeda*: Cretaceous to Recent**  
**Family Codiaceae: Ordovician to Recent**

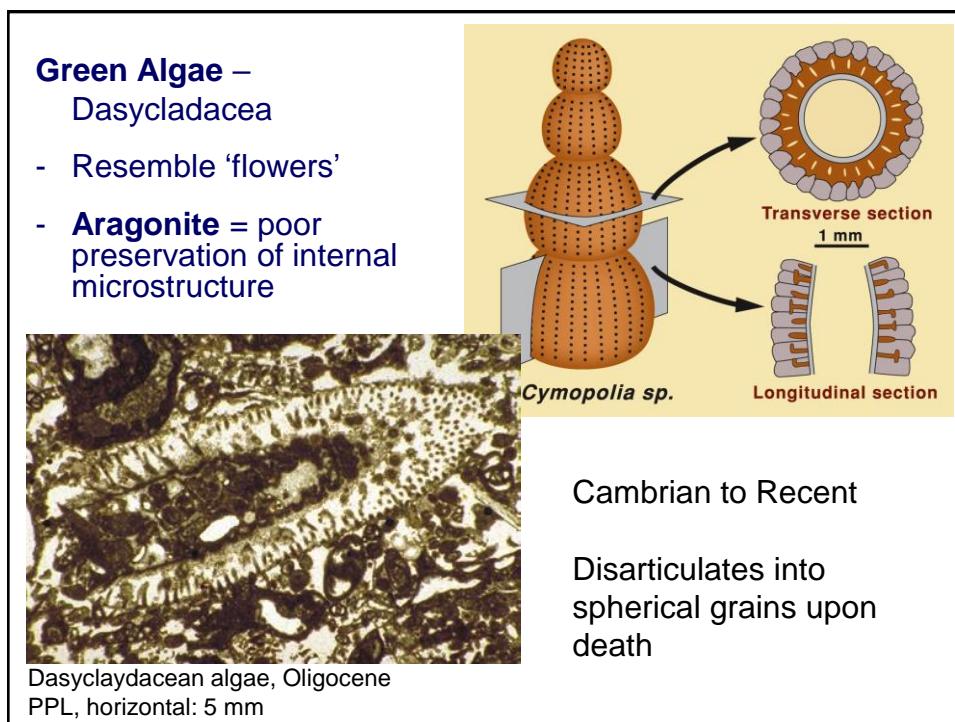
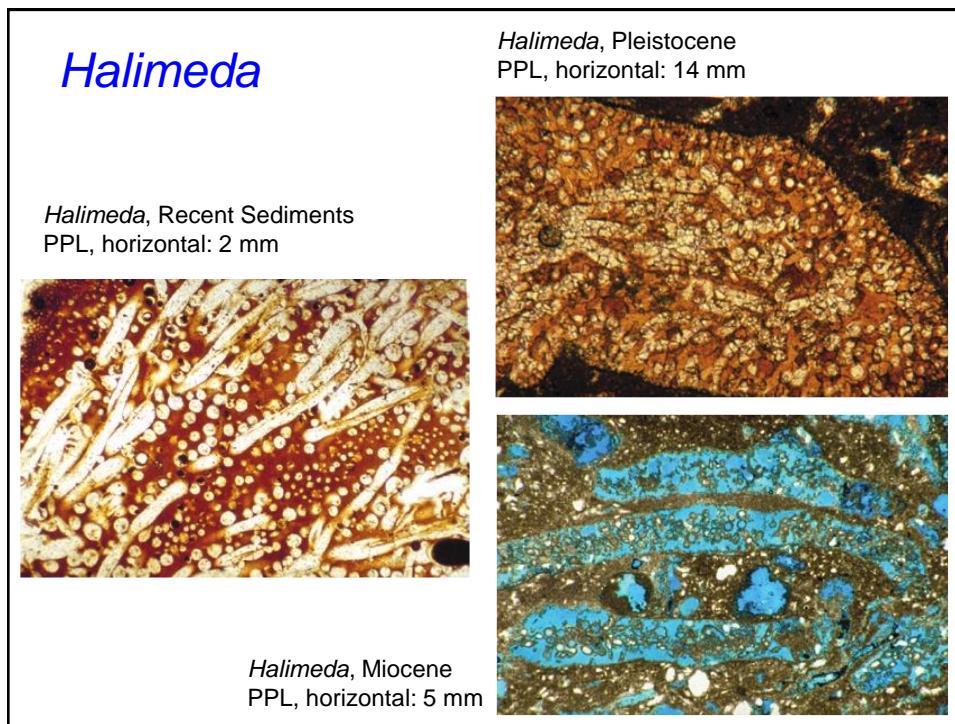
- **Aragonite (typically replaced). True of all green algae**
- 'Spaghetti noodle' interior fabric
- Major source of carbonate mud.



**Green Algae — *Halimeda*: Cretaceous to Recent**  
**Family Codiaceae: Ordovician to Recent**

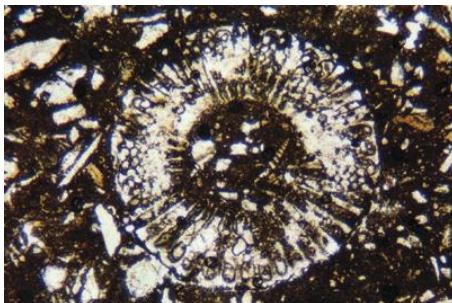
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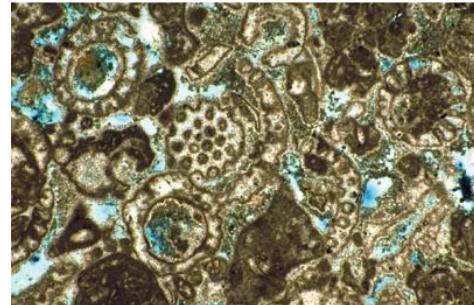


## Dasycladacea

Dasycladacean algae, Cretaceous  
PPL, horizontal: 5.5 mm



Dasycladacean algae, Upper Permian  
PPL, horizontal: 5.8 mm



Dasycladacean algae, Ordovician  
PPL, horizontal: 23 mm



## Green Algae – Charophytes

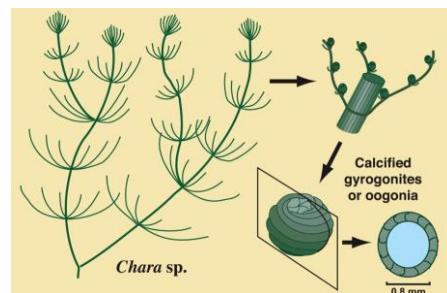
- Resemble 'flowers'
- Stalks and pelagic reproductive bodies (charophytes)

### Low-Mg Calcite or Aragonite

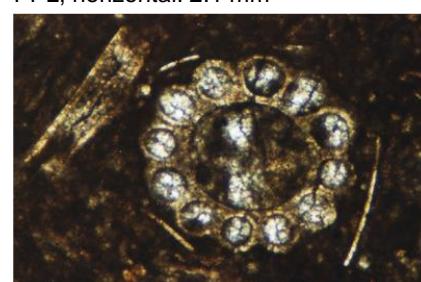
Charophyte, Upper Jurassic  
PPL, horizontal: 2 mm



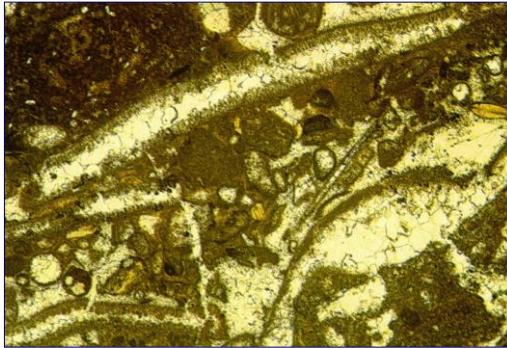
### Late Silurian to Recent



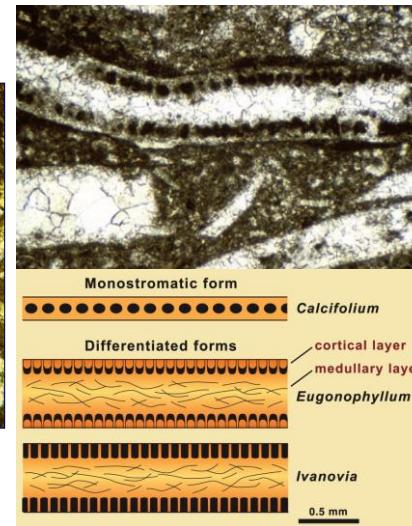
Charophyte, Lower Cretaceous  
PPL, horizontal: 2.1 mm



## Green Algae – Phylloid



Upper Pennsylvanian  
PPL, horizontal: 2.4 mm



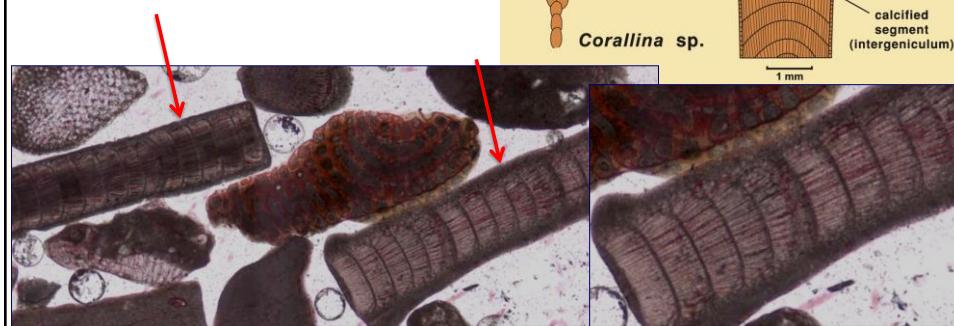
- Pennsylvanian to Late Permian
- Common Carboniferous grain producer
- **Aragonite**, so typically leached to resemble 'potato chips'
  - May look similar to bivalve pieces, but grain shape more irregular

CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
Megascopic Description		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
Hand Specimen Description: _____		Porosity%: _____
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____		
Thin Section Description		
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Micritized Grain Margins: _____
Allochemical Particle Types:		
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)	Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)	Representative Thin Section Description:
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	_____
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	_____
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____	_____
Gastropods: _____	Intracrysts: _____	_____
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	_____
Echinoderm: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	_____
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	_____
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Oncoids: _____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____		
_____		
_____		

## Skeletal Grains - Red Algae

Cambrian to Recent

- Stacked 'columns' – Identified by very fine latticework, boxwork or network structure
- Well-preserved because precipitated as **calcite**
- Larger depth range (low light tolerant)

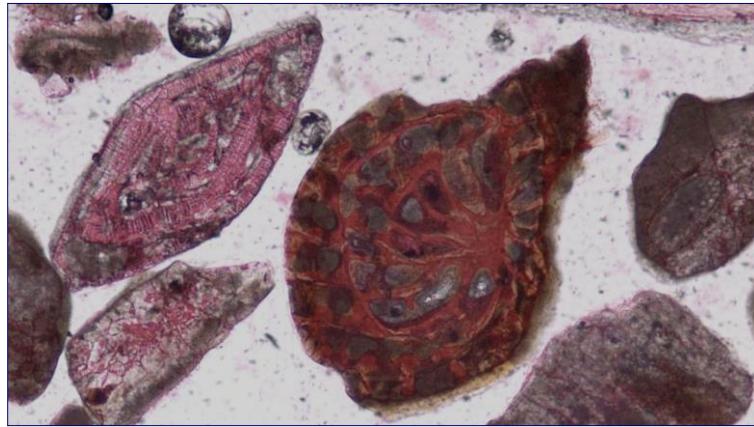


CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
<b>Megascopic Description</b>		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
Hand Specimen Description: _____		
Porosity%: _____		
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____		
<b>Thin Section Description</b>		
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Micritized Grain Margins: _____
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>		
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)	Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)	Representative Thin Section Description:
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____	
Gastropods: _____	Intracrysts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Echinoderm: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Oncoids: _____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____		

## Benthic Foraminifera

Cambrian to Recent

- Single celled, commonly resemble small “snail-like” shapes.
- Typically 0.1 to 1 mm. Can grow to a few cm long
- Key biostratigraphic indicators
- Many have **calcite tests**, so well preserved

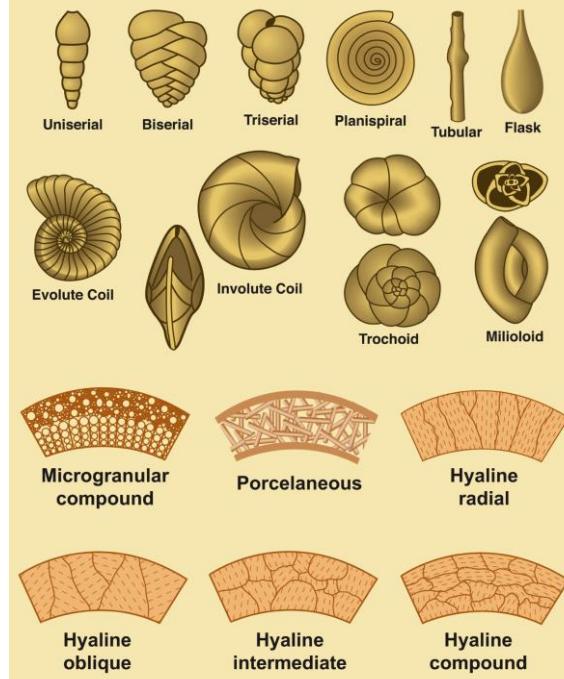


## Benthic Foraminifera

Common test shapes

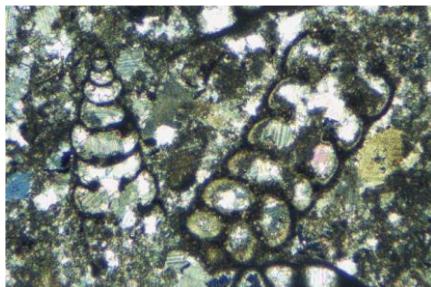
Can also get  
agglutinated forms  
(made of carbonate  
sand, quartz sand or  
mud)

Main calcareous wall  
structures

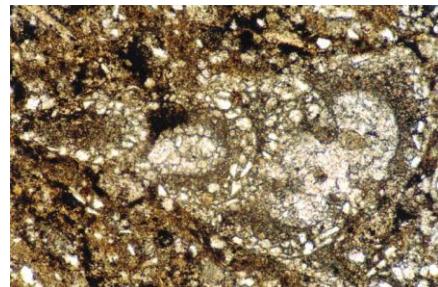


## Benthic Foraminifera

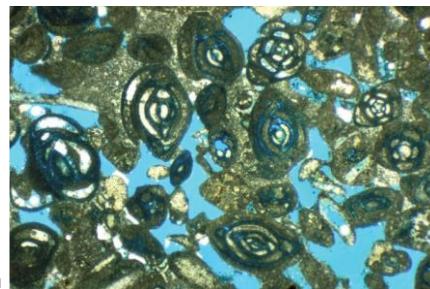
Biserial foram, Mid. Pennsylvanian  
XPL, horizontal: 2.2 mm



Agglutinated foram, Upper Cretaceous  
PPL, horizontal: 0.9 mm



Miliolid foram, Eocene  
PPL, horizontal: 5.1 mm



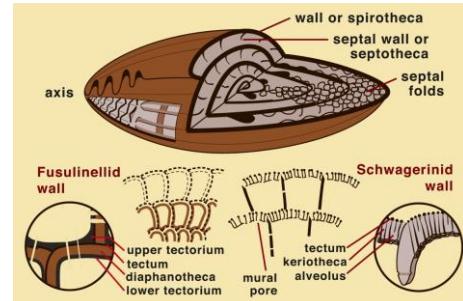
## Foraminifera – Fusilinids

Large benthic forams. Commonly visible with naked eye



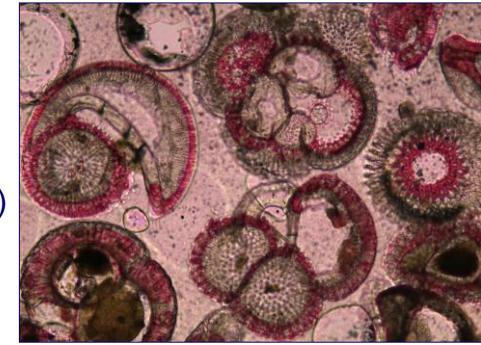
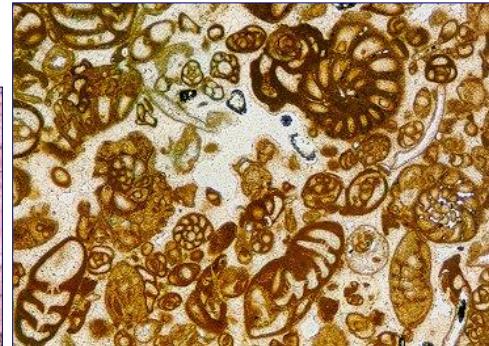
## Late Paleozoic

Large benthic forams. Commonly visible with naked eye



Fusilinid, Upper  
Pennsylvanian  
PPL, 16 mm

## Planktonic Foraminifera



Late Jurassic to Recent

- Much smaller (0.02 - 0.2 mm)
- **Calcite Tests**
- Delicate forms (pelagic)

CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	
Diagenesis	
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____
Megascopic Description	
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Compactional Data: _____
Hand Specimen Description: _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____
Porosity%: _____	
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____	
Thin Section Description	
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Micritized Grain Margins: _____
Allochemical Particle Types:	
<b>Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)</b>	<b>Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)</b>
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____
Brachiopods: <span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">_____</span>	Peloids: _____
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____
Gastropods: _____	Intracrysts: _____
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____
Echinoderm: _____	Lithoclasts: _____
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____
Calcareous Green Algae: _____	
Calcareous Red Algae: _____	
Foraminifera: _____	
Radiolarians: _____	
Stromatoporoids: _____	
Oncoids: _____	
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____	
_____	

**Brachiopods**

- Irregular, fibrous structure
- Punctate or impunctate
- Thin, **calcite** shells
- Corrugated or spiny margin
- Spines in Late Paleozoic

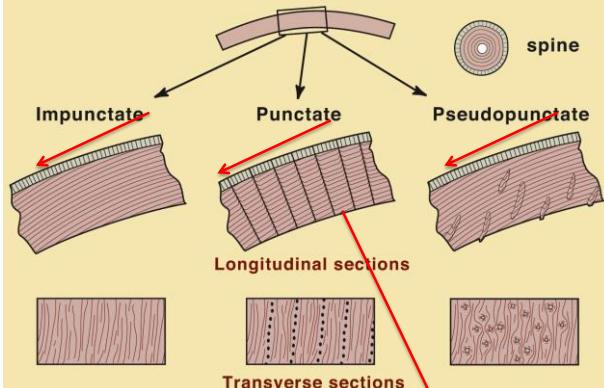
Cambrian to Recent



**Brachiopods**

5 types of shell microstructure:

- Laminar
- Punctate
- Impunctate
- Pseudopunctate
- Tabular



Low-angle fibrous microstructure

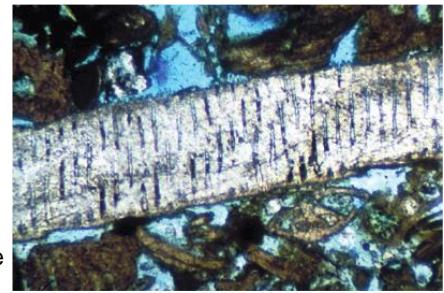
## Brachiopods



Upper Mississippian, PPL, horizontal: 2.1 mm  
Micrite coated brachiopod shells & crinoid ossicles. Two shell layers, fibrous microstructure, punctuate and impunctuate

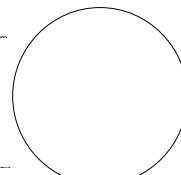


Upper Ordovician, PPL, hztl: 3.0 mm  
Thick second layer. Low-angle, fibrous microstructure, signif. Shell thickness change



Miocene, PPL, horizontal: 2.0 mm  
Punctuate shell & fibrous wall structure

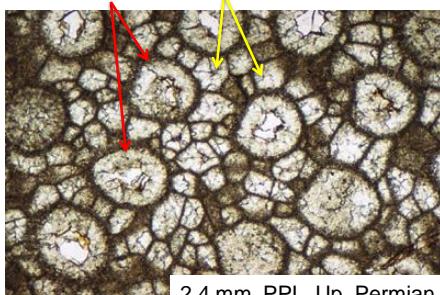
CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION			
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Diagenesis	
Megascopic Description		Matrix Type(s) and %: _____	
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Sample Quality: _____	Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
Hand Specimen Description: _____		Porosity %: _____	
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____			
Thin Section Description			
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____	
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Micritized Grain Margins: _____	
Allochemical Particle Types:			
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)		Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)	
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	Peloids: _____	Representative Thin Section Description: _____
Brachiopods: _____	Pisoids: _____	Intraclasts: _____	
Bivalves: _____		Aggregate Grains: _____	
Gastropods: _____		Lithoclasts: _____	
Bryozoa: _____		OTHERS: _____	
Echinoderms: _____			
Ostracodes: _____			
Calcareous Green Algae: _____			
Calcareous Red Algae: _____			
Foraminifera: _____			
Radiolarians: _____			
Stromatoporoids: _____			
Oncoids: _____			
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____			
_____			
_____			



## Bryozoa

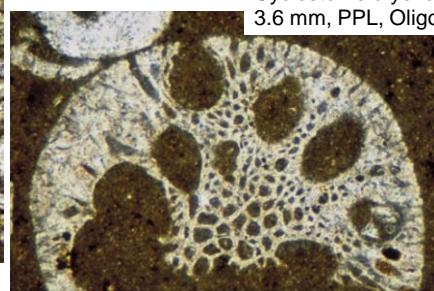
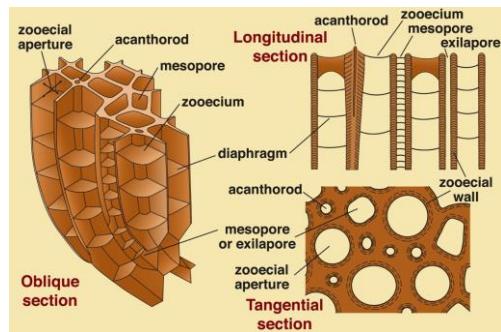
- Well-organized structure
- Small holes (zooecia), commonly cement filled filled with micrite.
- Branching, encrusting forms common
- Fibrous wall structure

Zooecia pores



2.4 mm, PPL, Up. Permian

## Early Ordovician to Recent



Cyclostome bryozoan:  
3.6 mm, PPL, Oligocene

## Bryozoa

Dissepiments

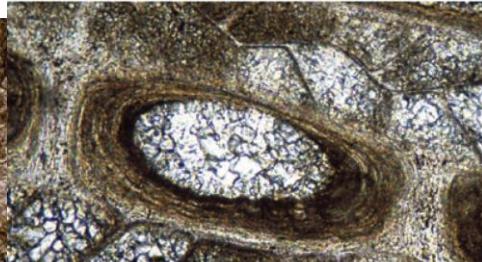
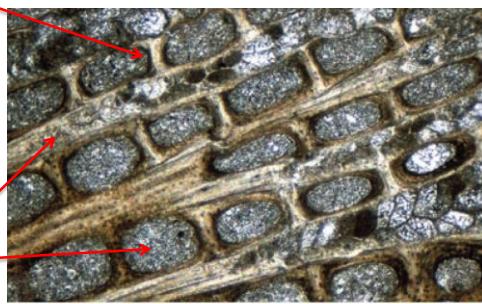
- Mostly composed of **calcite**, so microstructure commonly preserved.
- Colonial, few mm's to cm's
- Individual zooecia < 1mm

Wall structure  
Fenestrule

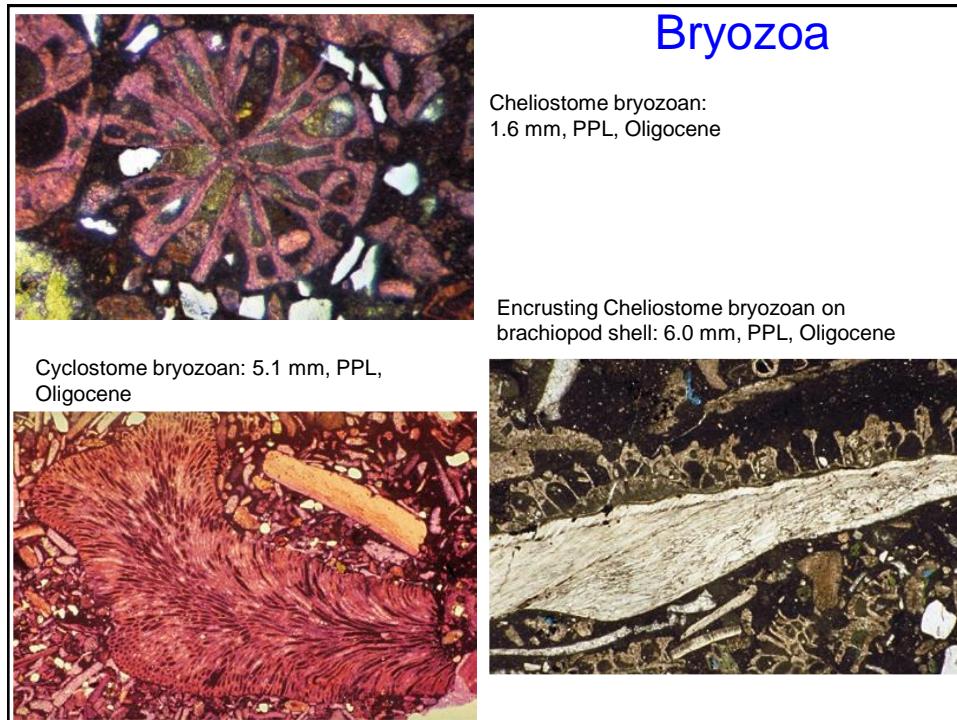
Treptostome bryozoan: 8.0 mm, PPL,  
Upper Ordovician



Fenestrate bryozoan: 1.65 mm, PPL, Mid.  
Mississippian. Note: laminated wall structure  
and calcite cement fill



Same slide as above: 0.65 mm. Note: laminated structure and slight crenulations



## Bryozoa

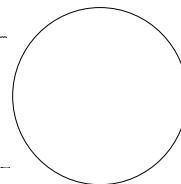
Cheliostome bryozoan:  
1.6 mm, PPL, Oligocene

Encrusting Cheliostome bryozoan on  
brachiopod shell: 6.0 mm, PPL, Oligocene

Cyclostome bryozoan: 5.1 mm, PPL,  
Oligocene



CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
<b>Megascopic Description</b>		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____
Hand Specimen Description: _____		
Porosity%: _____		
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____		
<b>Thin Section Description</b>		
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Micritized Grain Margins: _____
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>		
<b>Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)</b>	<b>Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)</b>	
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	Representative Thin Section Description: _____
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____	
Gastropods: _____	Intraclasts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Echinoderm: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Ooids: _____		
<b>Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s):</b> _____		
_____		
_____		



## Corals

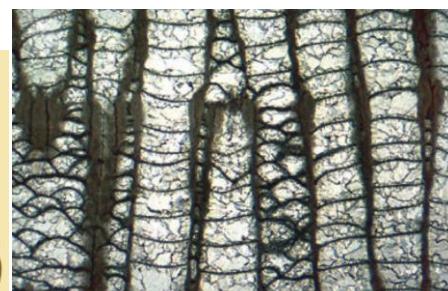
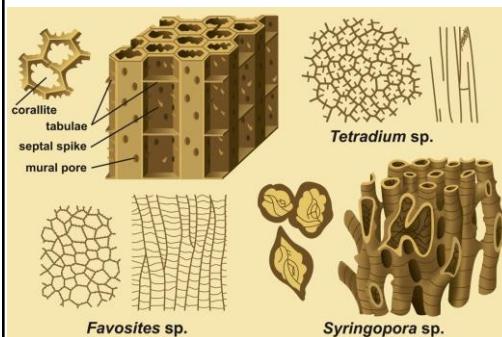
- Much larger 'holes' (corallites), separated by septa
- Modern Schleractinians (Triassic to Recent) are **aragonitic**, commonly leached, recrystallized and without microstructure.
- Paleozoic corals: Tabulata and Rugosa – **calcitic**, so commonly preserve wall structure.



## Tabulate Corals

Early Ordovician to Late Permian

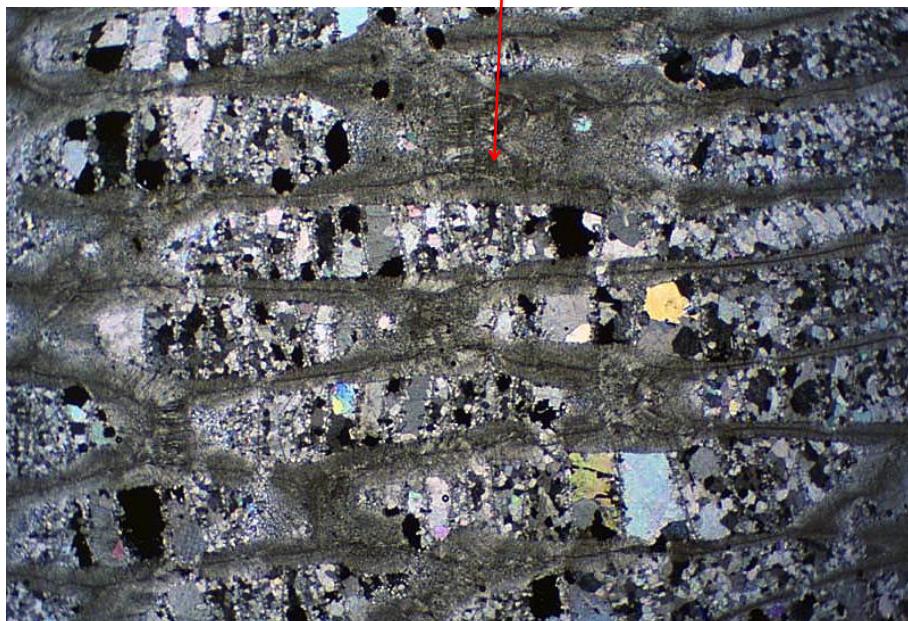
- **Calcite**
- Colonial: corallites (0.2-5 mm). Colonies mms to 4m in diameter
- Horizontal tabulae prominent. Small septa or lacks septa
- Fuzzy, fibrous wall structure
- Differentiated from Bryozoa by larger living chambers, tabulae and septa



Tabulate coral: 7.5 mm, PPL, Upper Ordovician.

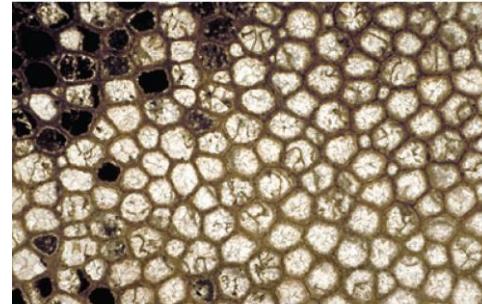
**Coral**

Fuzzy microstructure – perpendicular to septa &amp; coral wall

**Tabulate Corals**

- **Calcite**
- Colonial: corallites (0.2-5 mm). Colonies mms to 4m in diameter.
- Horizontal tabulae prominent. Small septa or lack septa.
- Fuzzy, fibrous wall structure.
- Differentiated from Bryozoa by larger living chambers, tabulae and septa.

Tabulate Coral (longitudinal section): 5 mm, PPL, Devonian. Note: fuzzy microstructure

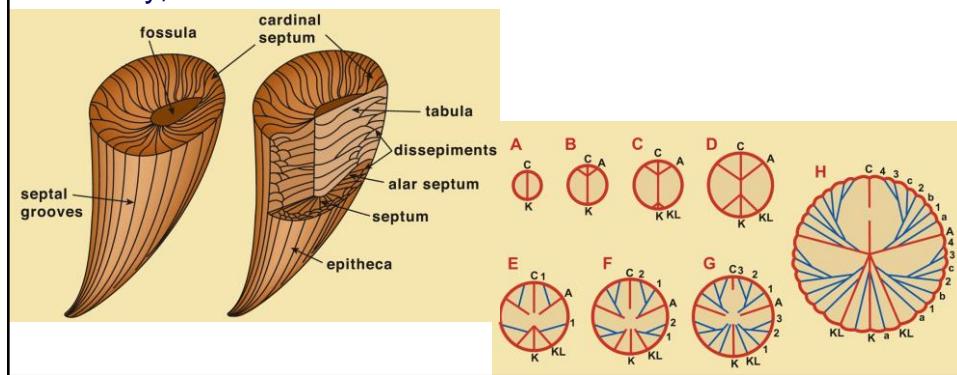


Same slide, transverse section: 12.5 mm.

## Rugose Corals

Middle Ordovician to Late Permian

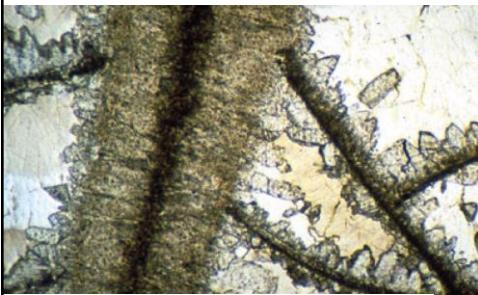
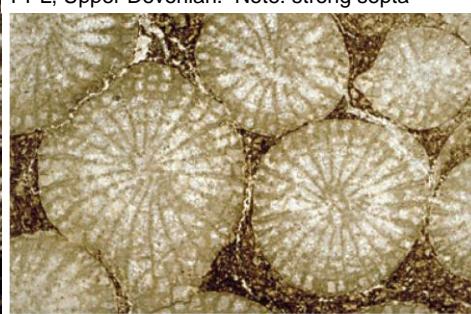
- Calcite
- Solitary (2/3): cm to dm, horn-shaped; or Colonial (1/3): cm to m, irregular branching or massive
- Well-developed septa, poorly developed tabulae. Bilaterally symmetrical
- Fuzzy, fibrous wall structure



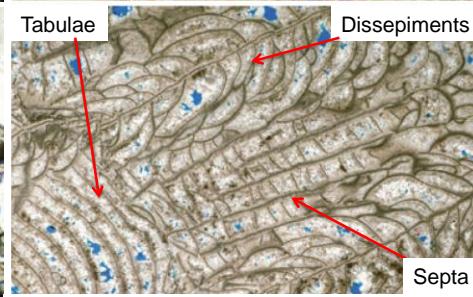
Rugose Coral (longitudinal section): 16 mm, PPL, Carboniferous.



Colonial Rugose (transverse section): 16 mm, PPL, Upper Devonian. Note: strong septa



Fuzzy microstructure, 2.0 mm, PPL, Lower Permian.

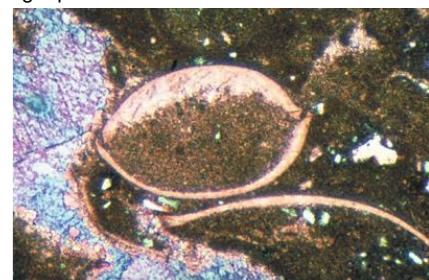


Colonial Rugose with complex structure: 14.5 mm, PPL, Lower Permian

## Ostracodes

## Cambrian to Recent

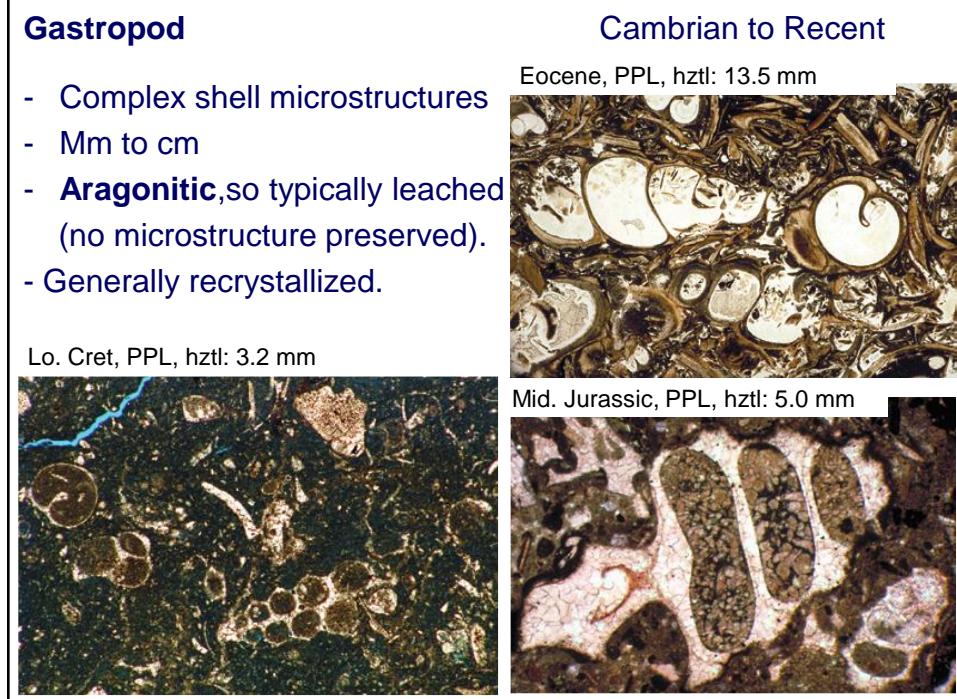
- Small (1 to 2 mm, max. 40 mm), very thin shells of an arthropod.
- Crystal growth normal to shell = sweeping extinction
- **Calcite** and slightly phosphatic, so well-preserved



Mid. Ordovician: 4 mm, PPL



CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
<b>Megascopic Description</b>		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
Hand Specimen Description: _____	Porosity%: _____	
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____		
<b>Thin Section Description</b>		
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Micritized Grain Margins: _____	
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>		
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)	Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)	
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	Representative Thin Section Description:
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	
Bivalves: _____	Pisolites: _____	
Gastropods: <b>_____</b>	Intracrysts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Echinoderms: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Oncoids: _____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____	_____	
_____		

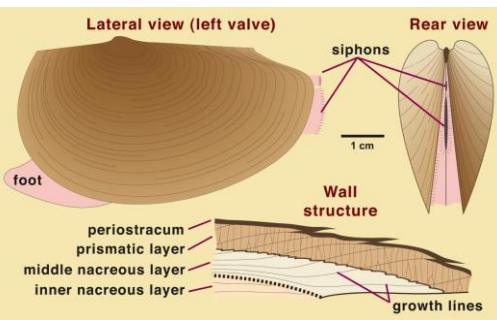


CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
<b>Megascopic Description</b>		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
Hand Specimen Description: _____	Porosity%: _____	
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____		
<b>Thin Section Description</b>		
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Micritized Grain Margins: _____	
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>		
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)	Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)	
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	Representative Thin Section Description:
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	
<b>Bivalves:</b> _____	Pisoloids: _____	
Gastropods: _____	Intracrysts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Echinoderms: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Oncoids: _____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____	_____	
_____		

## Bivalves (Pelecypods)

## Cambrian to Recent

- Complex shell microstructures (many varieties) – inner lamellar and outer prismatic layers
- **Aragonite** or calcite; most aragonite.
- **Commonly recrystallized or leached.** Fossil examples typically lack preserved wall microstructure.



**Lateral view (left valve)**

**Rear view**

**Wall structure**

1 cm

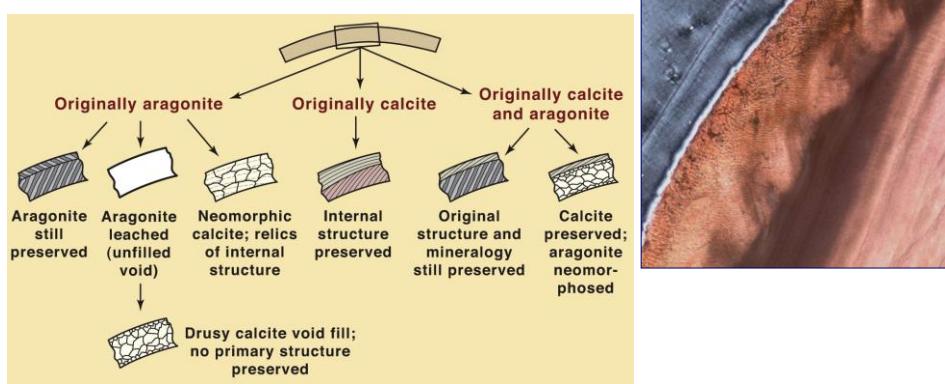
periostracum  
prismatic layer  
middle nacreous layer  
inner nacreous layer  
growth lines



## Bivalves (Pelecypods)

Cambrian to Recent

- Complex shell microstructures (many varieties) – inner lamellar and outer prismatic layers
- **Aragonite** or calcite; most aragonite.
- *Commonly recrystallized or leached.* Fossil examples typically lack preserved wall microstructure.

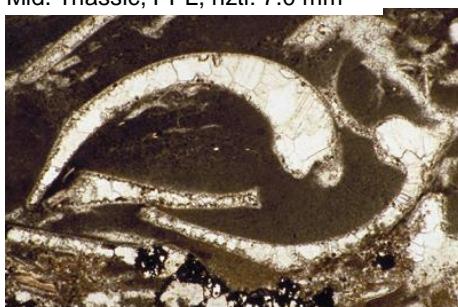


## Bivalves (Pelecypods)

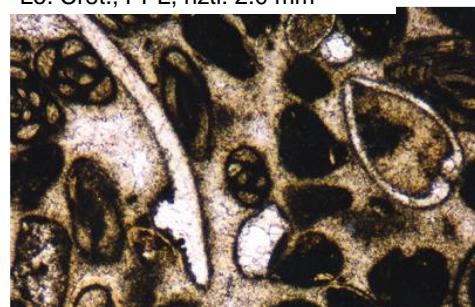
How to Identify Bivalves in thin section:

- Bivalve microstructure is typically replaced or recrystallized
- Bigger than Ostracodes (similar shell structure) though not generally phosphatic.
- Gently curving shell that tapers towards the front, and thickens towards the hinge.
- Multiple, complex shell structure if preserved.

Mid. Triassic, PPL, hztl: 7.0 mm



Lo. Cret., PPL, hztl: 2.0 mm



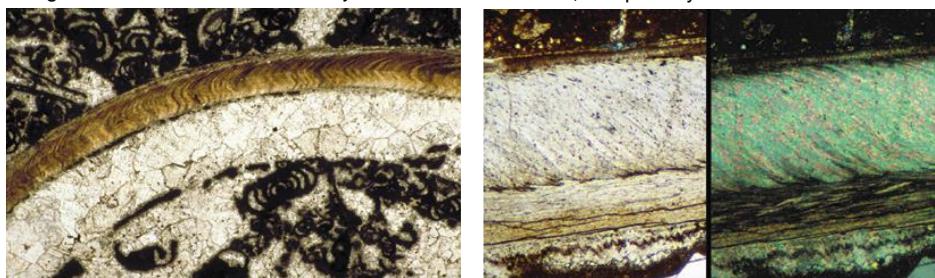
## Bivalves (Pelecypods)

How to Identify Bivalves in thin section:

- Bivalve microstructure is typically replaced or recrystallized
- Bigger than Ostracodes (similar shell structure) though not generally phosphatic.
- Gently curving shell that tapers towards the front, and thickens towards the hinge.
- Multiple, complex shell structure if preserved.

Cretaceous – rudist bivalve, PPL, hztl: 8.0 mm.  
Aragonite inner and calcite outer layer

Oligocene, PPL/XPL, hztl: 1.0 mm. Foliated structure, complex layers. Calcite shell

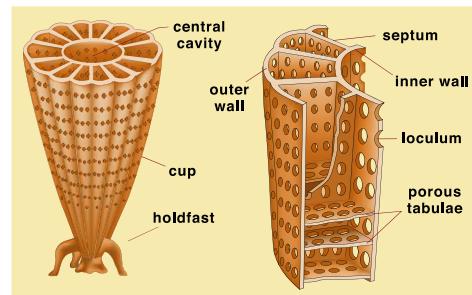


## Archaeocyaths

**Calcareous fossils common in the Lower Cambrian and extinct by the end of the Cambrian**

**Calcite**

**Large.** 10-25 mm in diameter and 50 mm high (large specimens to 150 mm)



Lo. Cambrian, PPL hztl: 16 mm

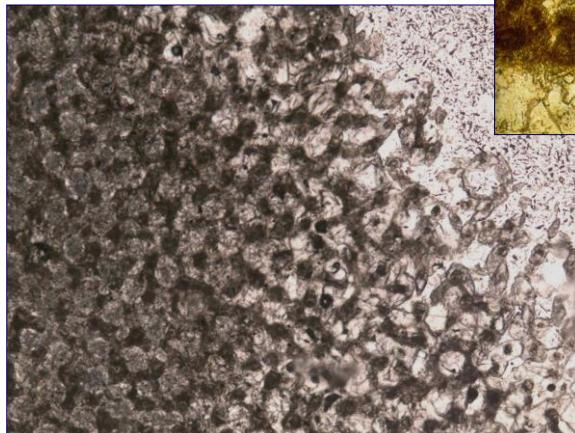
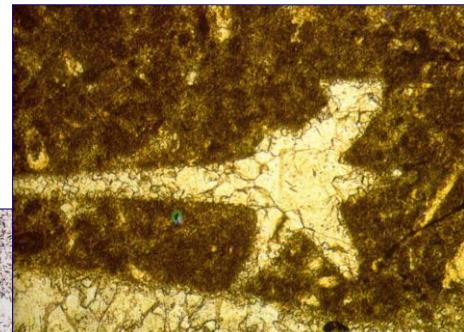


<b>CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION</b>	
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____
<b>Megascopic Description</b>	
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min, Ave.): _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Diagenesis _____
Hand Specimen Description: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
	Cement Type(s) and %: _____
	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
	Compactional Data: _____
	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____
	Porosity%: _____
<b>Neomorphism and Diagenetic History:</b> _____	
<b>Thin Section Description</b>	
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Sparsite (Cement)%: _____
	Micritized Grain Margins: _____
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>	
<b>Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)</b>	
Corals: _____	Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %) _____
Brachiopods: _____	Ooids: _____
Bivalves: _____	Peloids: _____
Gastropods: _____	Pisolites: _____
Bryozoans: _____	Intraclasts: _____
Echinoderms: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____
Ostracodes: _____	Lithoclasts: _____
Calcareous Green Algae: _____	OTHERS: _____
Calcareous Red Algae: _____	
Foraminifera: _____	
Radiolarians: _____	
Stromatoporoids: _____	
Oncoids: _____	
<b>Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s):</b> _____	
_____	

## Calcareous Demosponges (Stromatoporoids)

## PreCambrian to Recent

- Irregular microstructure
- May find spicules (but rare)
- Commonly encrusting forms



Spicules are hard to tell from pillars; arguments persist as to whether they had siliceous spicules replaced by calcite or calcareous spicules. Some say no spicules at all.

## Calcareous Sponges (excl. Stromatoporoids)

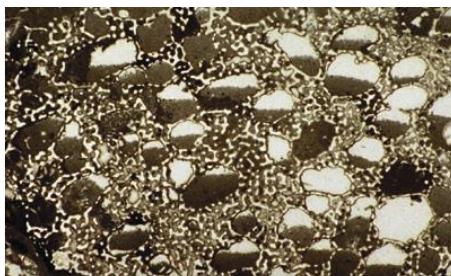
PreCambrian to Recent

Very hard to differentiate from Stromatoporoids. If spicules observed, then it's a sponge (incl. with Stroms)

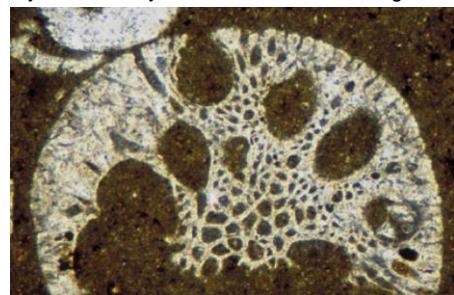
Differ from bryozoa in that they lack fibrous microstructure and are less organized

Differ from corals in that they lack clear organization obvious in corals

Calcareous sponge, Up. Permian, PPL, hztl:  
8.0 mm



Cyclostome bryozoan: 3.6 mm, PPL, Oligocene



## Calcareous Sponges (excl. Stromatoporoids)

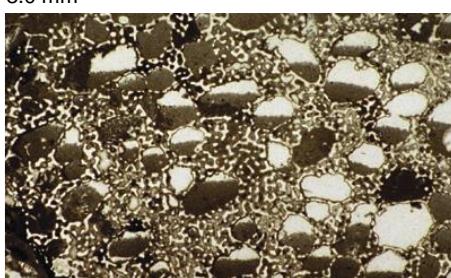
PreCambrian to Recent

Very hard to differentiate from Stromatoporoids. If spicules observed, then it's a sponge (included with Stroms)

Differ from bryozoa in that they lack fibrous microstructure and are less well organized

Differ from corals in that they lack clear organization obvious in corals

Calcareous sponge, Up. Permian, PPL, hztl:  
8.0 mm



Fenestrate bryozoan: 1.65 mm, PPL, Mid. Mississippian. Note: laminated wall structure



## Calcareous Sponges (excl. Stromatoporoids)

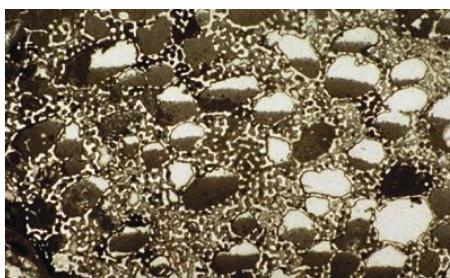
PreCambrian to Recent

Very hard to differentiate from Stromatoporoids. If spicules observed, then it's a sponge (included with Stroms)

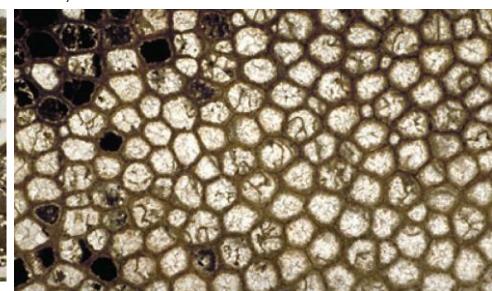
Differ from bryozoa in that they lack fibrous microstructure and are less well organized

Differ from corals in that they lack clear organization obvious in corals

Calcareous sponge, Up. Permian, PPL, hztl: 8.0 mm



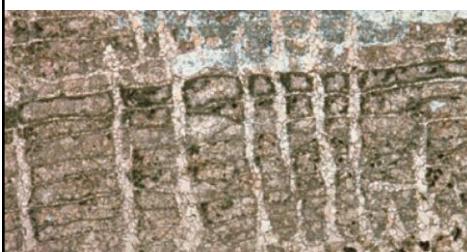
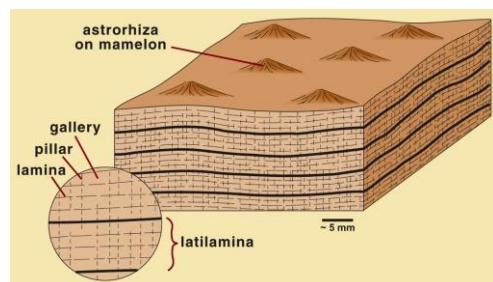
Tabulate Coral (tranverse section): 12.5 mm, PPL, Devonian.



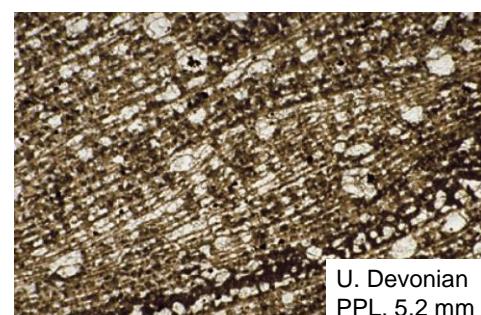
## Stromatoporoids

- Extremely common from Ordovician to Devonian
- Lattice-work of vertical pillars and horizontal laminae
- Primarily **calcite**
- Typically brownish (organics in crystal structure)

E. Ordovician to Cretaceous



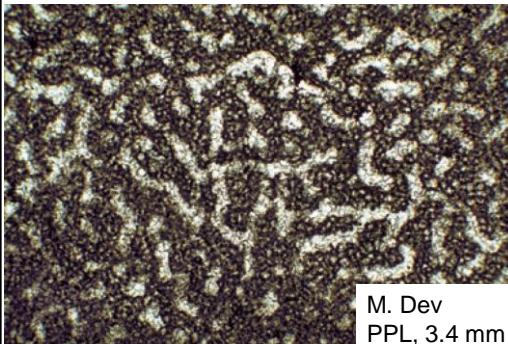
Ordovician, strong pillars  
PPL, 5.2 mm



U. Devonian  
PPL, 5.2 mm

## Stromatoporoids

- < 1 cm to > 1m
- Massive, sheet-like, encrusting forms, or globular and branching, finger-like forms (depending on energy level).



Can look very similar to calcified sponges in transverse view

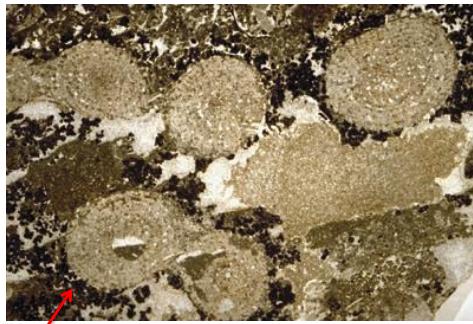
Boxwork appearance in cross-sectional view



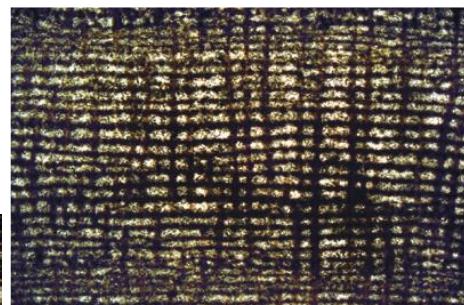
U. Devonian  
PPL, 11 mm

## Stromatoporoids

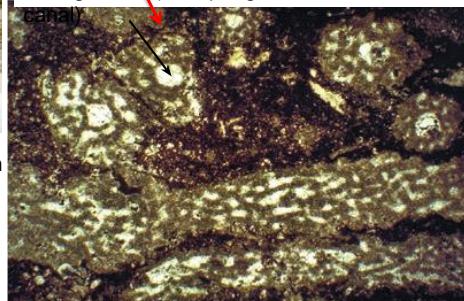
Stromatoporoid, Up. Devonian, PPL, hztl: 9.0 mm  
Well developed pillars and laminae



Stromatoporoid, Up. Devonian, PPL, hztl: 23.0 mm  
Well-developed chambers in cross-sections of finger-like stromatoporoids.



Amphipora, Up. Devonian, PPL, hztl: 11.0 mm  
Disorganized (like sponges, but with axial canal)



**Trilobites: Arthropoda**

Cambrian to Late Permian

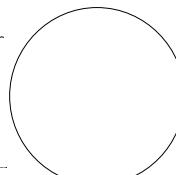
Phosphatic, giving  
**sweeping extinction**

**Shepherd's crook shapes**

**Calcitic/Apatitic**  
(rarely leached)

May have small perforations in  
Carapace.

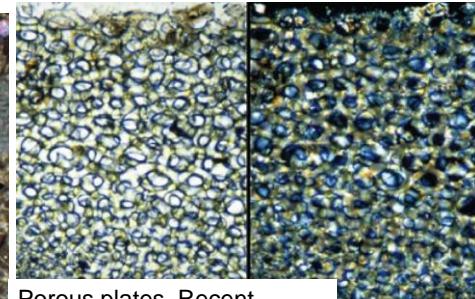
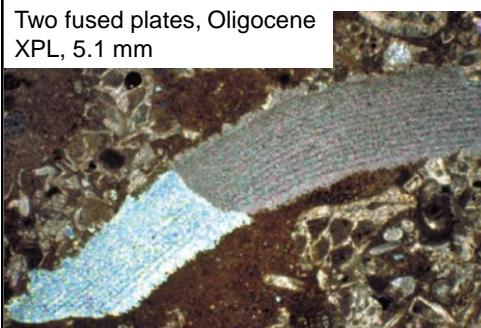


CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
Megascopic Description		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
Hand Specimen Description: _____		Porosity%: _____
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____		
Thin Section Description		
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____		Micritized Grain Margins: _____
Allochemical Particle Types:		
Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)	Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)	Representative Thin Section Description:
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____	
Gastropods: _____	Intracrysts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Echinoderms: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Oncoids: _____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____		

**Echinoderms – Echinoids**

Late Ordovician to Recent

- **Calcite**, very stable. Plates < 30 mm. Animals 1 to 10 cm
- Each plate/ spine grows as a single crystal (optical continuity) = **uniform extinction for entire plate**.
- Very common syntaxial calcite overgrowths
- Fine, honeycomb perforations, commonly filled with microspar or micrite gives a “checkerboard” appearance under XPL

Two fused plates, Oligocene  
XPL, 5.1 mm**Echinoderms – Crinoids**

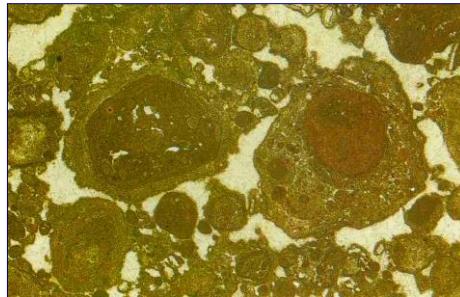
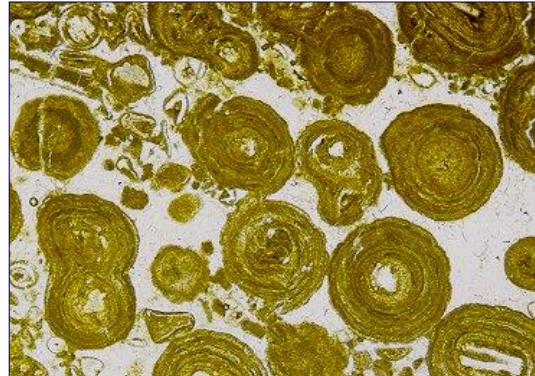
Early Cambrian to Recent

**Calcite**, very stableGrow as single crystals (optical continuity);  
**uniform extinction for each plate**Very common syntaxial calcite overgrowths  
Plates perforated. “Starry night” appearance.

CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis	
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____	
<b>Megascopic Description</b>		Cement Type(s) and %: _____	
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____	
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____	
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____		
Hand Specimen Description: _____	Porosity%: _____		
Neomorphism and Diagenetic History: _____			
<b>Thin Section Description</b>			
Allochem%: _____	Micrite Matrix%: _____	Sparite (Cement)%: _____	
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Micritized Grain Margins: _____		
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>			
<b>Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)</b>		<b>Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)</b>	
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	Representative Thin Section Description: _____	
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	Intracrysts: _____	
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Gastropods: _____	Intracrysts: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregates: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Echinoderms: _____	_____		
Ostracodes: _____	_____		
Calcareous Green Algae: _____	_____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____	_____		
Foraminifera: _____	_____		
Radiolarians: _____	_____		
Stromatoporoids: _____	_____		
Oncoids: _____	_____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____			

## Oncoids

Grains with irregular concentric laminae.  
Resemble pisoids (size and shape).  
Algal 'blobs' that roll around in subtidal env. (generally low energy).



CARBONATE / EVAPORITE ROCK THIN SECTION AND HAND SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION		Diagenesis
SAMPLE: _____	ROCK NAME: _____	Matrix Type(s) and %: _____
<b>Megascopic Description</b>		Cement Type(s) and %: _____
Colour (Fresh): _____	Colour (Weathered): _____	Other Authigenic Minerals: _____
Crystal Size: _____	Particle Size: (Max-Min; Ave.): _____	Compactional Data: _____
Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Porosity Type(s): (Primary or Secondary/Fabric or non-Fabric Selective) _____	
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<b>Thin Section Description</b>		
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Particle/Matrix: (grain- or matrix-supported) _____	Micritized Grain Margins: _____	
<b>Allochemical Particle Types:</b>		
<b>Bioclastic Fragments: (Size and %)</b>	<b>Inorganic Allochems: (Size and %)</b>	
Corals: _____	Ooids: _____	Representative Thin Section Description: _____
Brachiopods: _____	Peloids: _____	
Bivalves: _____	Pisoids: _____	
Gastropods: _____	Intraclasts: _____	
Bryozoans: _____	Aggregate Grains: _____	
Echinoderms: _____	Lithoclasts: _____	
Ostracodes: _____	OTHERS: _____	
Calcareous Green Algae: _____		
Calcareous Red Algae: _____		
Foraminifera: _____		
Radiolarians: _____		
Stromatoporoids: _____		
Oncoids: _____		
Fabric(s), Packing and Structure(s): _____	_____	
_____		

## Carbonate Grain Types – Non-Skeletal Grains

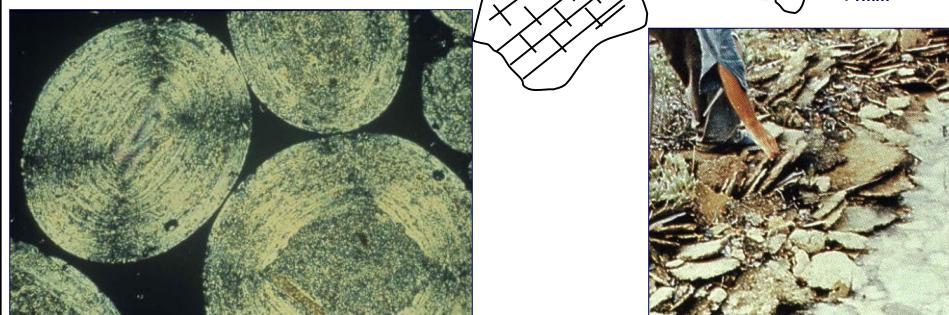
**Ooids:** concentric layers, < 2mm 

**Pisoids:** concentric layers, > 2mm 

**Peloids:** micro- or cryptocrystalline allochem

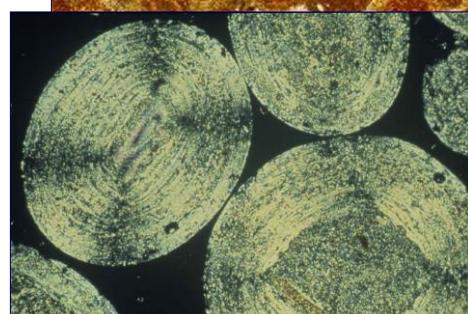
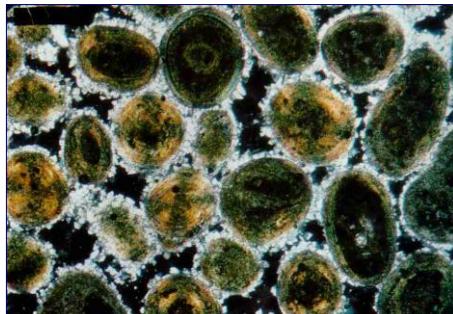
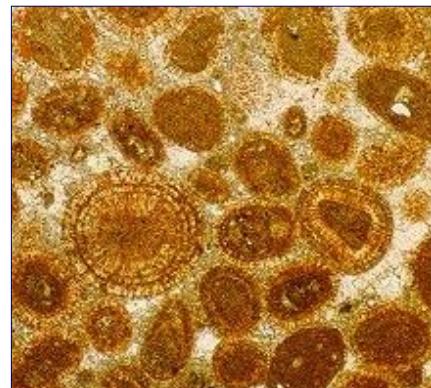
**Pellets:** micrite (microcrystalline) ball, < 1 mm 

**Intraclasts/Lithoclasts**



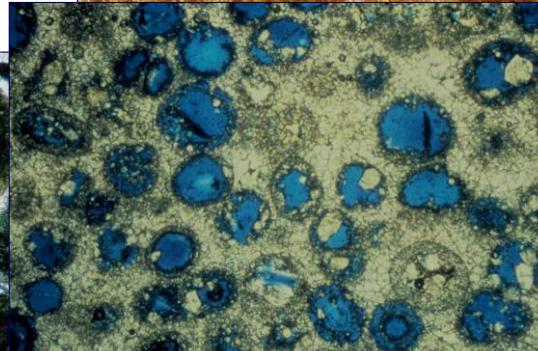
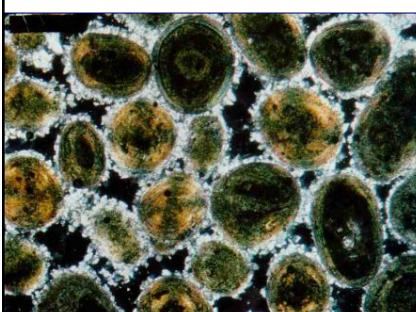
## Ooids

Sand-sized  
Sub-spherical  
Non-biochemical  
**Concentric** or radial growth  
Calcite or aragonite\*  
Mostly warm, shallow, and/or  
hypersaline, agitated water



## Ooids

Sand-sized  
Sub-spherical  
Non-biochemical  
**Concentric** or radial growth  
Calcite or aragonite\*  
Mostly warm, shallow, and/or  
hypersaline, agitated water



## Pisoids

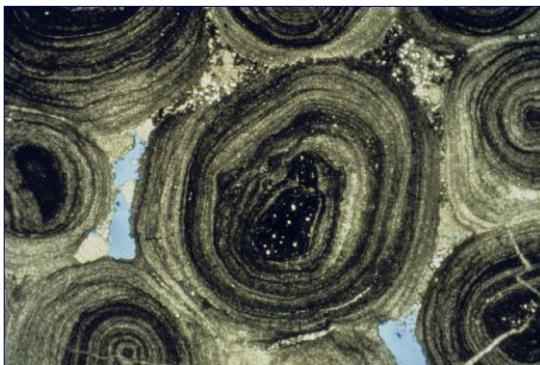
~Greater than sand-sized ooids (> 2 mm)

Sub-spherical

Non-biochemical

Concentric or radial growth

Commonly form in non-marine  
(groundwater)



## Peloids

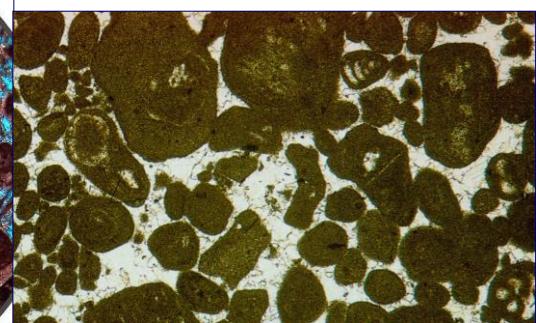
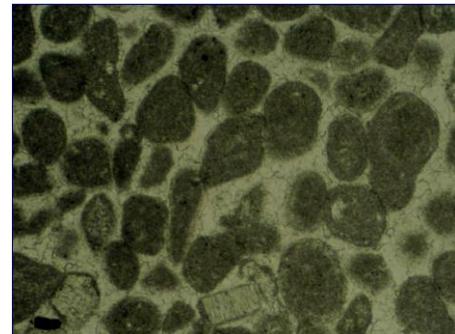
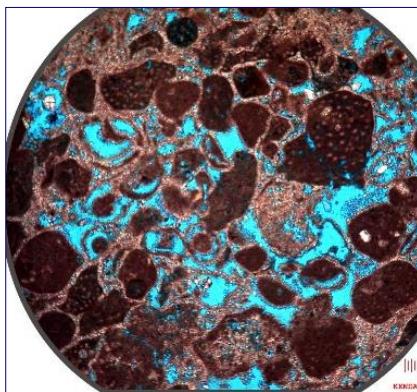
Grains of indeterminate origin

Typically rounded

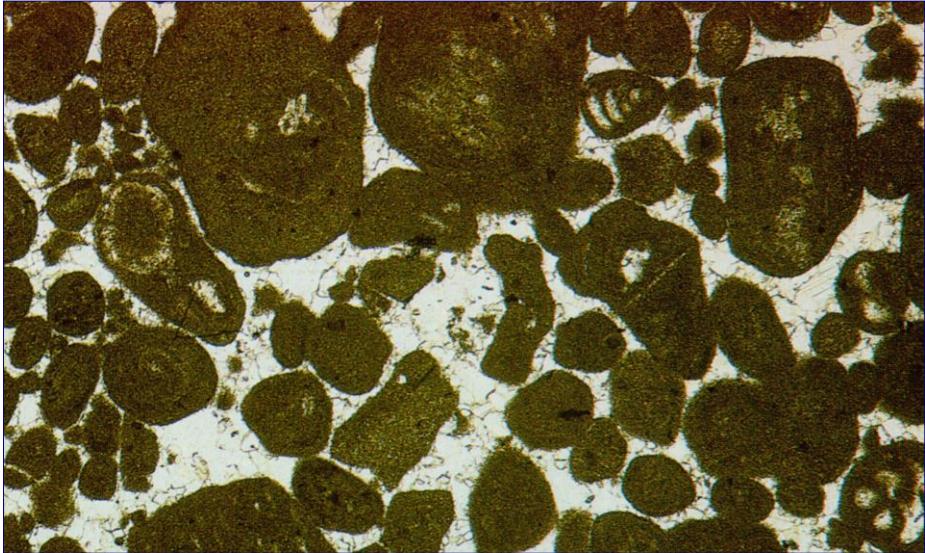
May be coated with micrite rim

Difficult to ID if compacted

Commonly of fecal origin

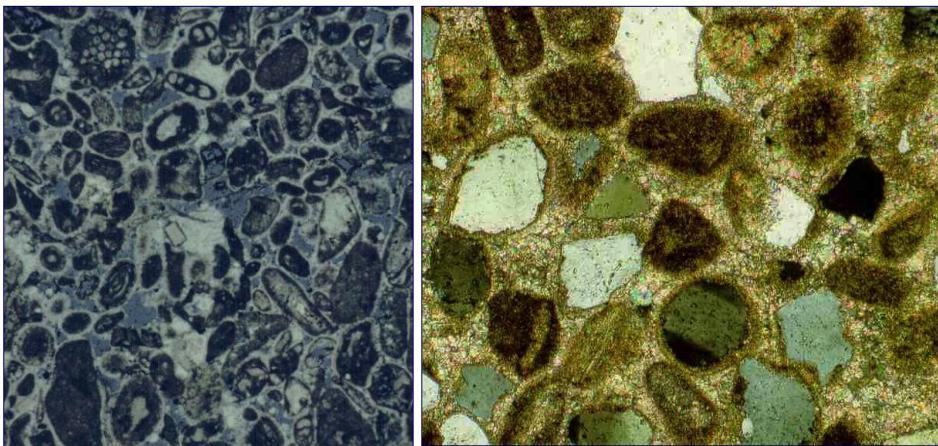


## Peloids



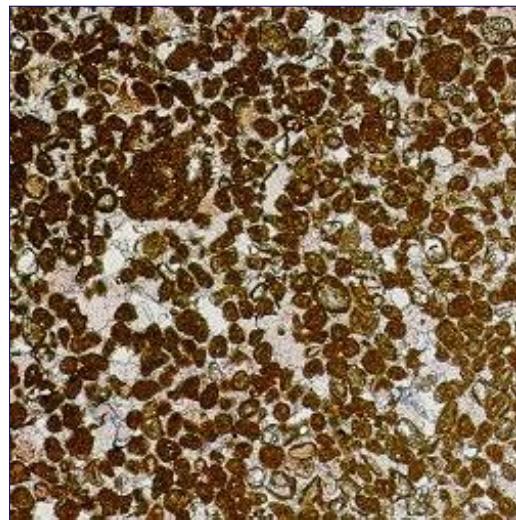
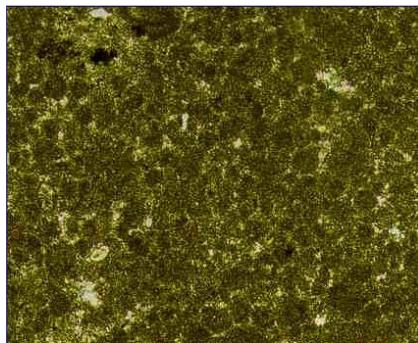
## Coated Grains

May resemble ooids, but commonly with a single thin micrite coating on allochem core (cortoid). Generally endolithic boring algae causes the micrite coating.



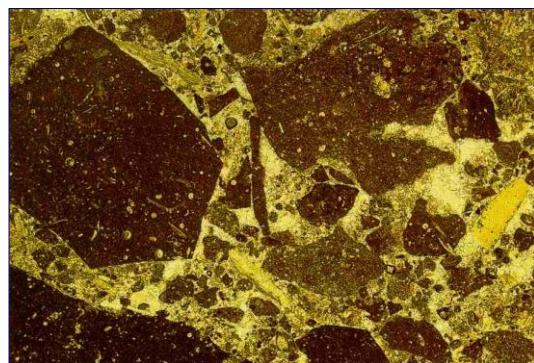
## Pellets

Rounded grains  
Micrite-rich  
Fine to very fine sand size  
Well-sorted  
Likely fecal origin  
Texture resembles the  
'feel of matchbook'



## Intraclasts / Aggregates

Rip-ups of weakly lithified  
material  
Typically lime mudstone  
Common in tidal settings  
Includes 'grapestones' and  
other aggregate grains.



## Lithoclasts

Fragments of consolidated material  
Commonly associated with storm deposits  
Variety of lithologies possible  
Both intrabasinal and extrabasinal

