



Fig. 21. Drawing of ooids (also called ooliths) which have been cut and ground thin enough for light to pass through. These ooids are composed of calcium carbonate, and the radiating lines in the layers are crystals of this mineral. Note the dark center which in each case is a part of the original grain around which the concentric layers were precipitated. Ooids such as this are a major component of certain beds of limestone, as in the Redwall Formation of the Grand Canyon. They are also being formed today in many places; for example, in parts of the Florida coasts, and on the Bahama Banks. Magnification approximately 30X.