

# CONCRETIONS

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*Concretions are a fairly common occurrence in the mudstones of the Central-Wales basin. There are several varieties as illustrated below. The first variety looks rather like an egg, and the second variety looks like a small loaf. There is usually no difference in their composition, the only difference being their shape, which has been influenced by the varying conditions in which they grew. Sometimes, however there is a high mineral content, usually carbonate or silicate in the surrounding sediments which can lead to there being a mineral core in the concretion, or maybe the concretion might grow in the form of a septarian nodule, as in the third illustration. The fourth illustration is of a cone in cone concretion. This type is particularly dense and heavy, and quite hard to break with a hammer. This is because it is composed of very closely interlocking growths of mudstone with a mineral content. The surface of this type characteristically displays the tops of the very compact cones, growing outwardly from the interior.*

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Egg shaped  
concretion



Loaf shaped  
concretion



Septarian  
concretion



Cone-in cone  
concretion