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Coral skeleton of the genus *Favia*. Scleractinian corals secrete a hard skeleton composed of aragonite (CaCO₃), which incorporates strontium along with calcium in a ratio that depends on sea-surface temperature. Recent findings suggest that for corals of the genus *Porites* this dependence may be used to recover records of Pleistocene and Holocene sea-surface temperatures with an apparent accuracy of better than 0.5°C. See page 644. [Photomicrograph: J. W. Beck]