

TABLE 6.2

## Common Crystal Habits

| Habit                            | Description   | Example           |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Acicular                         | Needle-like, slender, and/or tapered  | Rutile in quartz  |
| Amygdaloidal                     | Almond-shaped   | Heulandite        |
| Anhedral                         | Poorly formed, distorted  | Olivine           |
| Bladed                           | Blade-like, slender, and flattened  | Kyanite           |
| Botryoidal or globular           | Grape-like, hemispherical masses  | Smithsonite       |
| Columnar                         | Similar to fibrous: long, slender prisms often with parallel growth             | Calcite           |
| Coxcomb                          | Aggregated flaky or tabular crystals closely spaced                             | Barite            |
| Dendritic or arborescent         | Tree-like, branching in one or more direction from central point                | Magnesite in opal |
| Dodecahedral                     | Dodecahedron, 12-sided  | Garnet            |
| Drusy or encrustation            | Aggregate of minute crystals coating a surface                                  | Uvarovite         |
| Enantiomorphic                   | Mirror-image habit and optical characteristics; right- and left-handed crystals | Quartz            |
| Equant, stout, stubby, or blocky | Squashed, pinnacoids dominant over prisms                                       | Zircon            |
| Euhedral                         | Well formed, undistorted  | Spinel            |
| Fibrous or columnar              | Extremely slender prisms  | Tremolite         |
| Filiform or capillary            | Hair-like or thread-like, extremely fine  | Natrolite         |
| Foliated or micaceous            | Layered structure, parting into thin sheets                                     | Mica              |
| Granular                         | Aggregates of anhedral crystals in matrix                                       | Scheelite         |
| Hemimorphic                      | Doubly terminated crystal with two differently shaped ends                      | Hemimorphite      |
| Mamillary                        | Breast-like: intersecting large rounded contours                                | Malachite         |
| Massive or compact               | Shapeless, no distinctive external crystal shape                                | Serpentine        |
| Nodular or tuberoso              | Deposit of roughly spherical form with irregular protruberances                 | Geodes            |
| Octahedral                       | Octahedron, eight-sided (two pyramids base to base)                             | Magnetite         |
| Plumose                          | Fine, feather-like scales   | Mottramite        |
| Prismatic                        | Elongate, prism-like: all crystal faces parallel to c-axis                      | Tourmaline        |
| Pseudo-hexagonal                 | Ostensibly hexagonal because of cyclic twinning                                 | Aragonite         |
| Pseudomorphous                   | Occurring in the shape of another mineral through pseudomorphous replacement    | Tiger's eye       |
| Radiating or divergent           | Radiating outward from a central point  | Pyrite suns       |
| Reniform or colloform            | Similar to mamillary: intersecting kidney-shaped masses                         | Hematite          |
| Reticulated                      | Acicular crystals forming net-like intergrowths                                 | Cerussite         |
| Rosette                          | Platy, radiating rose-like aggregate  | Gypsum            |
| Sphenoid                         | Wedge-shaped  | Sphene            |
| Stalactitic                      | Form as stalactites or stalagmites; cylindrical or cone-shaped                  | Rhodochrosite     |
| Stellate                         | Star-like, radiating  | Pyrophyllite      |
| Striated/striations              | Surface growth lines parallel or perpendicular to c-axis                        | Chrysoberyl       |
| Tabular or lamellar              | Flat, tablet-shaped, prominent pinnacoid  | Ruby              |
| Wheat sheaf                      | Aggregates resembling hand-reaped wheat sheaves                                 | Zeolites          |