

## **ACETATE PEELS**

*These are useful for studying the fine detail of corals or of the texture of limestones.*

### **Requirements**

*A small piece of limestone not more than 5cm by 5cm with one flat saw cut surface.*

*A sheet of overhead projector acetate*

*Acetone*

*Dilute HCl acid*

*Corundum grit 600 grade*

*A5 sized piece of thick glass*

*Hair dryer*

### **Instructions**

- 1. Start with a flat surface cut with a rock saw.*
- 2. Polish this surface using 600 grade abrasive carborundum grit. Place some grit with a drop of water on the glass. Move the limestone over the surface with a circular motion.*
- 3. Cut a piece of acetate from an overhead projector transparency just a little larger than the rock face.*
- 4. Dip the rock face into dilute HCl and allow it to fizz for 15 to 20 seconds.*
- 5. Wash the etched surface under a tap but do not touch the etched surface.*
- 6. Dry the etched surface using a hair dryer. Again do not touch the surface.*
- 7. Cover the surface completely with acetone and then quickly before it dries place the acetate sheet on the surface. Start at one corner and allow the piece of acetate to fall evenly over the surface to avoid trapping bubbles.*
- 8. After ten minutes peel the acetate sheet from the rock.*
- 9. Look at it under a microscope or hand lens.*