



Figure 9. Histograms of frequency distribution of morphometric parameter values at each site. (a) Angle at which facets meet and (b) rounding as measured by radius of curvature ratio. Solid line corresponds to the mean value for the quarry boulders.

boulders and the fact that they have the lowest Schmidt hammer rebound values are consistent with their greater exposure time and in situ breakdown [McCarroll, 1991; Boelhouwers et al., 1999]. Surface boulders also show the greatest variation in Schmidt hammer values, consistent with influences from variation in lichen cover which in turn

is influenced by factors including rock type, texture, aspect, and moisture availability. Decreased hardness correlates with increased lichen cover, and thus, lichen cover may accelerate weathering as has been shown at other sites [e.g., Stretch and Viles, 2002]. Thin sections show lichen assist grain displacement and oxidation of iron-bearing minerals.