



These photos attempt to display the variable character of microbrecciated mylonite gneiss of the decollement zone. So numerous and varied in fact that the efficacy of detailed map work is debatable.

The photo top left is a northward view near Cactus Loop. The detachment (not visible) is to the left and 'typical' mylonite gneiss (also not visible) occur to the right. Photo above right displays characteristic microbrecciated mylonite gneiss: microcrystalline 'fluidized' bluish matrix which is enriched in Fe and Mg compared to the white, lighter component; the irregular and discontinuous nature of the felsic white component. Recall the 'pristine' mylonite gneiss shown in the first set of photos and see that the gneissic banding is disrupted and discontinuous. At right, note the apparent attenuation of the felsic 'layer' and the absence of a similar pattern in the felsic 'layer' below it. Photos lower left show microbreccia of indeterminate composition. These parcels of rock are well 'mixed' with a resulting color that is not solid blue, nor white.



At right, note the small white 'blebs' of felsic particles dispersed in the darker matrix. Below that photo is a good display of the internal offsets: The felsic and 'mafic' components are juxtaposed by a knife-edge contact. Bottom right shows how contact can be rounded and diffuse. The reader should keep in mind that contacts can exhibit both angular and rounded, and gradual and abrupt contact characteristics in close proximity and exist in a single microbreccia body.



At right is a microbreccia body that lacks sharp contact and appears fragmented and mingled with a felsic microbreccia counterpart.

