

**FIGURE 4.11** Water pathway through the leaf. Water is pulled from the xylem into the cell walls of the mesophyll, where it evaporates into the air spaces within the leaf. Water vapor then diffuses through the leaf air space, through the stomatal pore, and across the boundary layer of still air found next to the leaf surface. CO<sub>2</sub> diffuses in the opposite direction along its concentration gradient (low inside, higher outside).

