

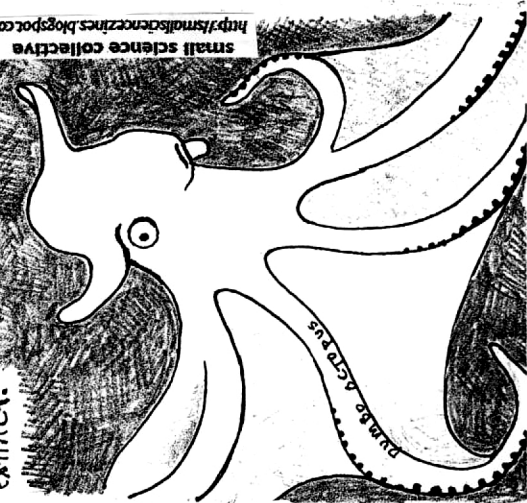
But did you know that some CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in the ocean?

You might already know that the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), causes global warming.

# ocean ACIDification

The consequences are horrific: millions of species with CaCO<sub>3</sub> shells or skeletons, and the species who depend on those species are predicted to go extinct.

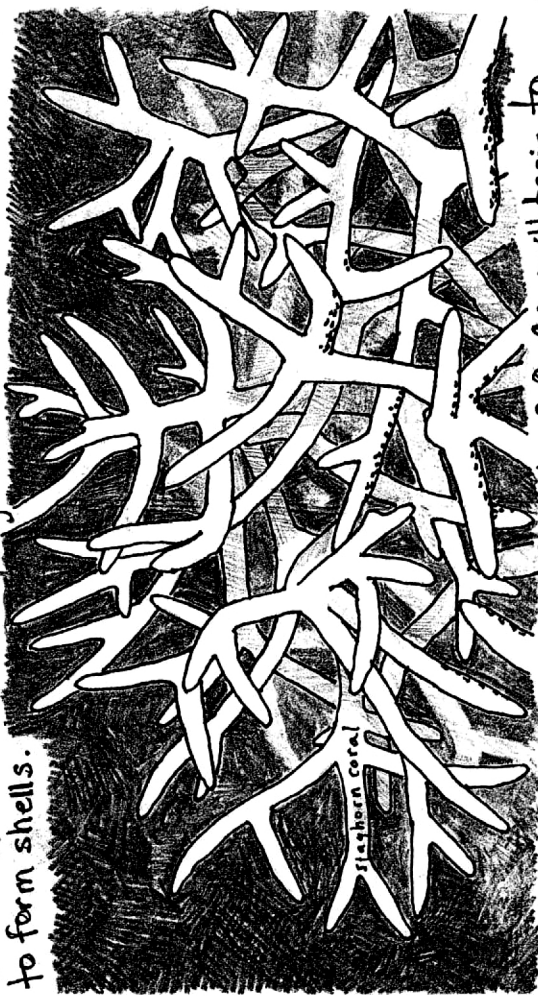
<http://smallsciencecollective.blogspot.com>



"Ocean acidification" has already produced a 0.1 decline in ocean surface pH (a rise in acidity of 30%).

When CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in the ocean, it produces Carbonic acid (H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>), which makes the ocean more acidic.

This rise in acidity reduces the number of calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) building blocks available for animals to form shells.



Eventually any animal shell made of CaCO<sub>3</sub> will begin to dissolve. Climate scientists predict that the waters around Antarctica will be too acidic to support corals and pteropods by the end of this century.