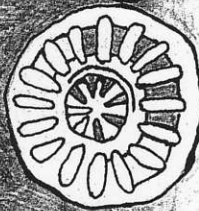


But did you know that
Some CO_2 dissolves in
the ocean?

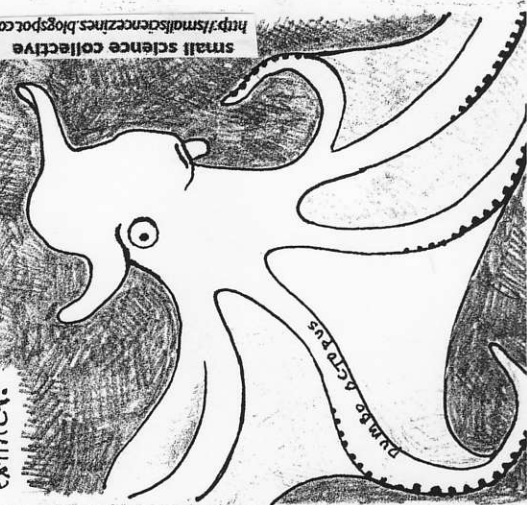
You might already know that the greenhouse gas,
carbon dioxide (CO_2), causes global warming.

ocean ACIDification



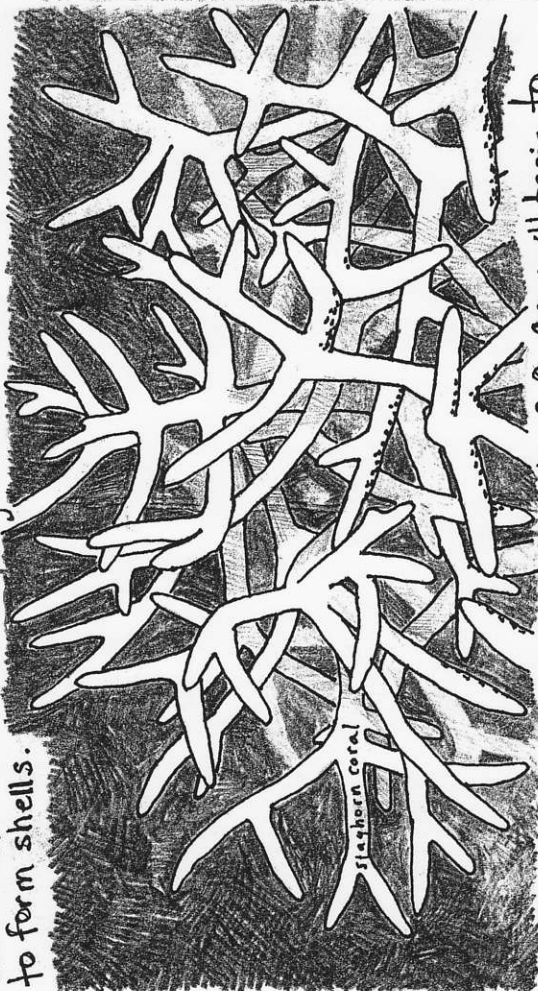
The consequences are horrific:
millions of species with CaCO_3
shells or skeletons, and the
species who depend on those
species are predicted to go
extinct.

<http://smallsciencezines.blogspot.com>



When CO_2 dissolves in the ocean, it produces Carbonic
acid (H_2CO_3), which makes the ocean more acidic.

This rise in acidity reduces the number of calcium
carbonate (CaCO_3) building blocks available for animals
to form shells.



Staghorn coral

Eventually any animal shell made of CaCO_3 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.