Part II: Species and species groups

Chapter 5

Vulnerability of marine microbes on the Great Barrier Reef to climate change

Nicole Webster and Russell Hill

I make no apologies for putting microorganisms on a pedestal above all other living things. For if the last blue whale choked to death on the last panda, it would be disastrous but not the end of the world. But if we accidentally poisoned the last two species of ammonia-oxidisers, that would be another matter. It could be happening now and we wouldn't even know...

Tom Curtis (July 2006) in Nature Reviews Microbiology

Image courtesy of Dennis Kunkel Microscopy Inc.