

Think of Earth as a zoo surrounded by a fence of physical and chemical extremes, and these extremes define our biospace.

Definition:

Biospace

- A space bounded by physical and chemical extremes within which life on this planet lives

- However, the boundary of the biospace is not to be transgressed
- Once you do, it moves into physical conditions that are far too extreme for life to be able to tolerate
 - Most of these extremes are dominated by micro-organisms
 - These microbes are Extremophiles – organisms that love extreme environments
- The estimated number of microbes on the Earth is 1000 billion, billion, billion microbes

In order to pursue the possibilities of life beyond Earth, as well as the search for life on other planets, we need to understand:

- The limits of life on Earth
- Where it lives
- The depths of Earth in which it might grow and reproduce
- How high it may survive in the atmosphere

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