

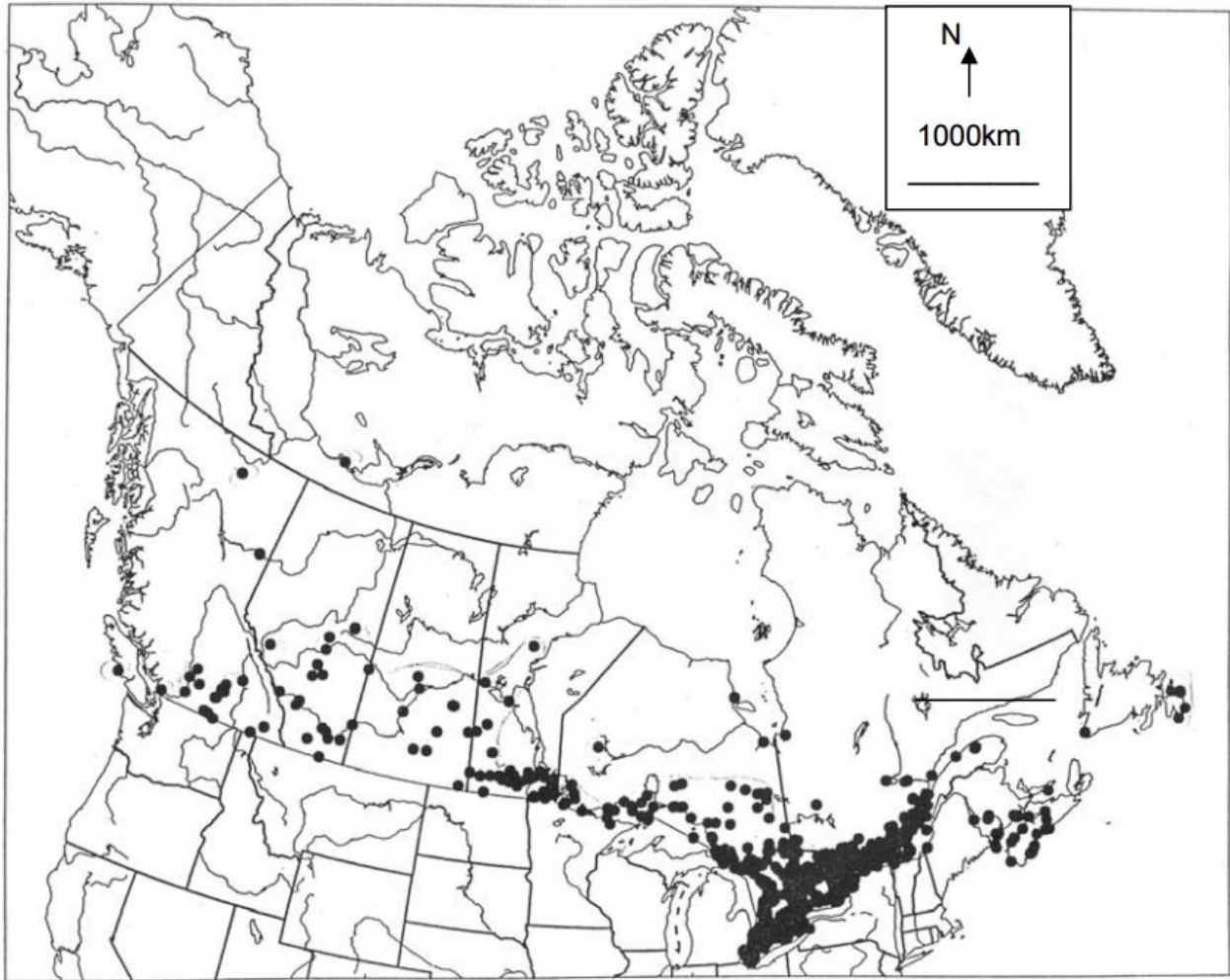


Species at Risk Profile Series: Monarch



- Monarchs are listed as Special Concern in Canada.
- Viceroy's appear similar, but have a horizontal black line on the hindwing.
- Male Monarchs have two small black dots on the hindwing that females do not have.
- They require four types of habitat: breeding, staging, nectaring, and overwintering habitat.
- Caterpillars can only eat one kind of plant, Milkweed.
- Milkweed provides a toxin to Monarchs, protecting them from predators.
- Monarchs migrate each year to Mexico, and overwinter there.
- This migration is possible because Monarchs have the ability to turn nectar into fat.
- They ride hot air columns to reach prevailing winds that aid their migration.
- Each female lays about 500 eggs per year under a Milkweed leaf.
- Development from egg to adult takes approximately 20-45 days.





Conservation

- Loss of habitat, particularly on the wintering grounds, is the largest concern.
- The introduced Common Milkweed produces lower toxins in Monarchs, which allows much higher predation rates, especially on the wintering grounds.
- Pesticide use reduces milkweed abundance and affects Monarch survival.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Monarchs [here](#).
- Grow a [butterfly garden](#) to provide nectar for adults.

Photo credit: Photograph of a Monarch Butterfly by Kenneth Dwain Harrelson retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Monarch_In_May.jpg licensed under CC-BY-SA 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en> (front)

Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2010. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Monarch *Danaus plexipus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 43 pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm).