

Monarch Butterflies

Dr. Hunter and Dr. De Roode study on butterfly. They found out that butterfly always chose tropical milkweed more than the swamp milkweed. Dr. Hunter worked at Michigan University and Dr. De Roode went to Emory University, Atlanta.



Dr. Hunter



Dr. De Roode

Monarchs butterfly lay their eggs on tropical and swamp milkweed plant. When the baby egg hatch, they grow to caterpillar and eat the plant. Any protozoa infecting them will be killed and poisoned. Monarchs have evolved to be able to digest cardenolides.



Butterfly eggs



Grow up to caterpillar



Eats then become
chrysalis



Finally becomes a butterfly

Tropical and swamp milkweed are both plants that butterfly lay their eggs. Butterfly don't care that much, but butterfly lay their eggs on tropical milkweed the most. There reason is because it's a higher level of chemicals called cardenolides. And for knowing they did experiment on them and saw it.



Tropical milkweed



Swamp milkweed

Cardenolides can cause membrane cells
to leak.

They suspect this make it hard for those
cell to work properly. And it can kill
some organisms also OE.