

# Monarch Butterflies

By : Emmanuel



Dr . Hunter



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Dr . DeRoode

One third of a monarch butterflies are infected with common parasites OE . Which is a protozoan that causes the monarch to suffer from flu like symptoms. Weaken the monarchs die from paper wasps and also if they survive they are often too weak to open the chrysalis . Dr . Hunter from Michigan working with Dr . DeRoode noticed monarch self - medicating .



Mother butterfly flies , there were ones that were infected . Mother butterflies lay their eggs between swamp milkweed and tropical milkweed . Only the female monarchs that are infected went to lay eggs on tropical milkweed .

Monarch egg



Which have cardenolides that are  
poiseios to the protozoan hunting the  
butter flies . Hunter noticed this  
about the butterflies . The only plant  
( infected female monarchs ) laid there  
eggs on were the tropical  
milkweed .





Parasites can plague insects . At least one insect - the monarch butterfly - has found a way to treat its babies so that they avoid infection by a common and potentially cropping parasites .

