

Milkweed Specialist Insects of New England

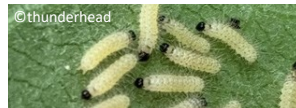
Milkweed Tussock Moth

Euchaetes egle

Common Milkweed
Jun-Oct



Eggs pale gray, laid under fuzzy white mass on underside of milkweed leaf.



First instars (first developmental stage) gray and hairy. ≤ 1 cm. Feed in large clusters on underside of milkweed leaves.



Subsequent instars with tufts of black, orange, and white. ≤ 3.5 cm. Consume milkweed leaves.



Pupae overwinter on the ground in cocoons made with hairs from body. ~ 1.5 cm.



Adults grayish wings; hairy, yellow abdomens with black dots. ~ 2 cm.

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

Common and Swamp Milkweed
Jun-Oct



Eggs cream to light green in color and ovate with longitudinal ridges. ~ 1.2 mm. Typically laid singly on underside of young milkweed leaf.



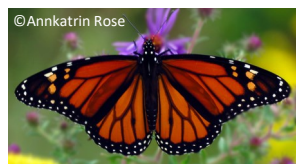
First instars have pale green to gray-white bodies with black heads. 2-6 mm. Consume milkweed leaves.



Subsequent instars have white, yellow, and black crosswise bands. ≤ 5 cm. Consume milkweed leaves.



Pupae form pale-green chrysalis with gold and black rim around dorsal side near top. ~ 2.3 cm long. Typically leave host milkweed to pupate—can be found on any plant or structure.



Adults orange with black veins and black borders with white spots. Wingspan is 7-10 cm.

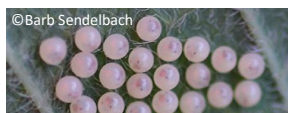
Viceroy similar but with horizontal black stripe across hindwings.

Gray boxes indicate milkweed species preference(s) and months when the species is mostly likely to be seen. All measurements are of total length (from tip of head to tip of abdomen).

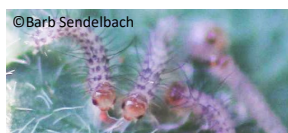
Delicate Cynia Moth

Cynia tenera

Multiple Milkweed Species
Jun-Sep



Eggs white to light purple, laid in batches of 50-100 on milkweed stems and leaves.



First instars white to light purple and hairy. Feed in groups of 5-7 on dogbane and milkweed.



Subsequent instars soft, white to gray hairs. ≤ 3.5 cm. Consume dogbane and milkweed leaves.



Pupae form grayish cocoons using hairs from body.



Adults white-gray wings and yellow-orange abdomen with black dots. Orange on leading edge of forewing extends almost to apex. ~ 2 cm.

Unexpected Cynia Moth*

Cynia collaris

Butterfly and Whorled Milkweed, especially
May-Sep



Eggs (not shown) similar to *C. tenera*.



First instars hairy and orange. ~ 1 cm. Consume milkweed leaves.



Subsequent instars orange with light gray to dark brown tufts. ≤ 3.5 cm. Consume milkweed leaves.

Pupae (not shown) form cocoons on ground using hairs from body.

Adults white-gray wings and yellow-orange abdomen with black dots. Orange on leading edge of forewing only extends halfway to apex (unlike similar *C. tenera*). ~ 2 cm.

Diptera (Flies)

Milkweed Leaf-miner Fly

Liriomyza asclepiadis

Common Milkweed
Jun-Oct



Larvae feed between layers of milkweed leaf leaving light green to dark brown scar paths. Only fly known to consume milkweed.

Adults rarely seen.

*Rare within New England

Large Milkweed Bug*Oncopeltus fasciatus*Common Milkweed
Jun-Nov

Eggs (not shown) light yellow turning to red, laid in crevices between milkweed seed pods or within pods.

Larvae orange with black legs and wing covers. 5-10 mm. Consume milkweed seeds.

Adults orange-red with a thick black bar. 13-18 mm. Consume milkweed seeds, young leaves, flowers, and pods.

**Oleander Aphid***Aphis nerii*Common Milkweed,
especially
Jun-Nov

Bright yellow-orange. ~2 mm. Large clusters consume milkweed sap and are tended to by ants which protect the aphids and consume the honeydew produced by the aphids in return.

Small Milkweed Bug*Lygaeus kalmii*Multiple Milkweed species
Mar-Nov

Eggs (not shown) light yellow turning to red, laid in crevices between milkweed seed pods or within pods.

Larvae similar to *O. fasciatus* but with two diagonal black markings on pronotum. 5-8 mm.

Adults black with red X-shape on wings and thin white wing margins. 10-12 mm. Consume insects, nectar, and milkweed pods and leaves.

**Dogwood-milkweed Aphid****Aphis asclepiadis*Common Milkweed,
especially
Jun-Nov

Greenish-brown/gray. ~2 mm. Large clusters consume milkweed sap and are tended to by ants which protect the aphids and consume the honeydew produced by the aphids in return.

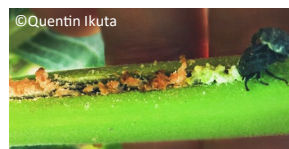
Swamp Milkweed Leaf Beetle*Labidomera clivicollis*Swamp, but also
Common Milkweed
May-Oct

Eggs orange and oblong, laid on underside of milkweed leaves in batches of 30-60.

Larvae pale and rounded. ~3 mm. Consume milkweed leaves.

Pupae (not shown) metamorphose on ground.

Adults rounded; dark orange to yellow with highly variable black pattern; black head and pronotum. ~1 cm. Mate on/around milkweed. Overwinter in leaf litter.

**Milkweed Stem Weevil***Rhysomatus lineaticollis*Common Milkweed
May-Sep

Eggs laid in milkweed stem evidenced by a linear scar (pictured) that fills with latex and often turns black. In late summer, eggs may be laid in pods.

Larvae pale, ~12 mm. Complete development in stem while feeding on pith.

Pupae (not shown) metamorphose on ground.

Adults black and hard-bodied with longitudinal grooves in abdomen. Mouth parts form a snout (rostrum). ~5 mm. Initially feed on young milkweed leaves. Overwinter in soil.

**Red Milkweed Beetle***Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*Common, but also Swamp
and Whorled Milkweed
Jun-Aug

Eggs (not shown) red, laid on milkweed stems or in soil.

Larvae (not shown) consume milkweed roots, bore into milkweed stems, overwinter in roots.

Pupae (not shown) metamorphose on ground.

Adults red with black spots. ~1 cm. Consume milkweed leaves, buds, and flowers.

Blackened Milkweed Beetle**Tetraopes melanurus*Butterfly Milkweed
Jun-Aug

Eggs (not shown) red, laid on milkweed stems or in soil.

Larvae (not shown) consume milkweed roots, bore into milkweed stems, and overwinter in roots.

Pupae (not shown) metamorphose on ground.

Adults red with large, black, heart-shaped spot. ~1 cm. Consume milkweed leaves, buds, and flowers.