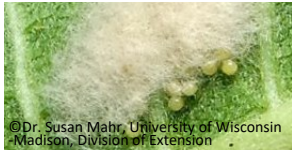


# Milkweed Specialist Insects of New England

## 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.  $\leq 1$  cm. Feed in large clusters on underside of milkweed leaves.



**Subsequent instars** with tufts of black, orange, and white.  $\leq 3.5$  cm. Consume milkweed leaves.



**Pupae** overwinter on the ground in cocoons made with hairs from body.  $\sim 1.5$  cm.



**Adults** grayish wings; hairy, yellow abdomens with black dots.  $\sim 2$  cm.

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.  $\leq 3.5$  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.  $\sim 2$  cm.

## Monarch

*Danaus plexippus*

Common and Swamp Milkweed  
Jun-Oct



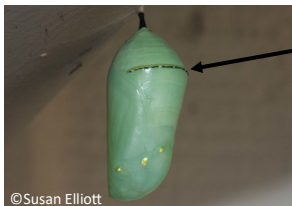
**Eggs** cream to light green in color and ovate with longitudinal ridges.  $\sim 1.2$  mm. Typically laid singly on underside of young milkweed leaf.



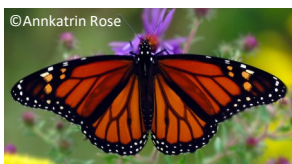
**First instars** have pale green to gray-white bodies with black heads. 2-6 mm. Consume milkweed leaves.



**Subsequent instars** have white, yellow, and black crosswise bands.  $\leq 5$  cm. Consume milkweed leaves.



**Pupae** form pale-green chrysalis with gold and black rim around dorsal side near top.  $\sim 2.3$  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.

## Unexpected Cynia Moth\*

*Cynia collaris*

Butterfly and Whorled Milkweed, especially  
May-Sep



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



**First instars** hairy and orange.  $\sim 1$  cm. Consume milkweed leaves.



**Subsequent instars** orange with light gray to dark brown tufts.  $\leq 3.5$  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*).  $\sim 2$  cm.

## 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. Some have pale streaks on abdomen. 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.

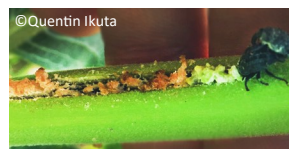
**Swamp Milkweed Leaf Beetle***Labidomera clivicollis*Swamp, but also  
Common Milkweed  
May-Oct

**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***Rhyssomatus 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.