

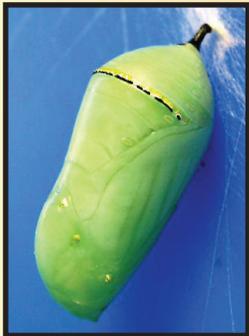
Monarch Identification



Throughout the monarch's life cycle, it may be confused with other, similar-looking species. This guide can serve as a quick reference to distinguish between monarchs and monarch look-alikes.



Adult queens and soldiers lack a black outline on the inside of the fore-wing and have unique patterns of white spots.



The monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*)



Adult viceroys have a solid black line on the hind-wings.



Eastern black swallowtail caterpillars lack the tentacles present on monarch and queen caterpillars.



Queen caterpillars have three sets of tentacles versus two in monarch caterpillars.

Monarch eggs (greatly enlarged in the picture) and pupae look very similar to those of queens. The easiest way to distinguish is to observe the adults depositing eggs and observe the caterpillar before it pupates.

Photo credits: eastern swallowtail larva and monarch pupa: Marie-Ève Garon-Labrecque, adult queen: Cullen Hanks, viceroy adult and monarch egg: MJ Hatfield, adult monarch: Ted Kropiewnicki, larval monarch: R. Berg, larval queen: Tom Murray.