



Every species is prone to predators. Though we may have our favorites that we'd like to protect, we cannot save one over the expense of another. Monarch butterflies are no exception.





Parasites - Tachinid Flies

Tachinidae or the Tachinid fly is a more sneaky predator to Monarchs. First, let's learn the difference between parasites and parasitoids. Parasitoids are "an insect (e.g., the ichneumon wasp) whose larvae live as parasites that eventually kill their hosts (typically other insects)."¹ Then there is a parasite which is "an organism that lives in or on an organism of another species (its host) and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense."¹ Both are especially dangerous to Monarch larvae. Tachinid flies are a parasite to monarchs, because in various stages of their development, they will typically lay eggs and those eggs will thrive while slowly harming the monarch, which may or may not survive after the ordeal.



¹ (Oxford Dictionary)