

Appendix D: Distribution of Milkweeds in United States and Canada

Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) are the prominent food for monarch larva. As a genus, milkweeds are well distributed and represented by many species (Table D.1). Plant species preference by monarchs for both laying eggs or as food during the larval stage is not well known, though there are a few species (*A. syriaca*, *A. incarnata*, *A. tuberosa*, *A. verticillata*, and *A. viridiflora*) that are found in a majority of US states or Canadian provinces.

The table was modified from that originally produce by Oberhauser et al. (2009). Green blocks denote distribution noted by Oberhauser et al. 2009, but not currently in the USDA Plant database. Green X's in Table D.1 denote provinces or states a plant species has been found according to the current USDA Plant data base, but not originally reported by Oberhauser et al. (2009). Red X's denote typographic error in the original source.

References

Oberhauser K, Batalden R, Howard E. 2009. Monarch Butterfly Monitoring in North America: Overview of Initiatives and Protocols. Commission for Environment, Montreal (Quebec) Canada.

Table D.1. Distribution of milkweed species in Canada and US. Detailed maps showing occurrence of species by county can be viewed via the hyperlinks to the USDA Plant database.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Canada										No. Of
		AB	BC	MB	NB	NS	ON	PE	QC	SK	Canadian Provinces	
clasping milkweed	A. amplexicaulis										0	
Arizona milkweed	A. angustifolia										0	
spider milkweed	A. asperula										0	
California milkweed	A. californica										0	
bloodflower	A. curassavica										0	
woollypod milkweed	A. eriocarpa										0	
desert milkweed	A. erosa										0	
poke milkweed	A. exaltata						X		X		2	
Mexican whorled milkweed	A. fascicularis										0	
Florida milkweed	A. feayi										0	
African milkweed	A. fruticosa										0	
nodding milkweed	A. glaucescens										0	
green milkweed	A. hirtella						X				1	
pinewoods milkweed	A. humistrata										0	
swamp milkweed	A. incarnata			X	X	X	X	X	X		6	
dwarf milkweed	A. involucrata										0	
Utah milkweed	A. labriformis										0	
fewflower milkweed	A. lanceolata										0	
sidecluster milkweed	A. lanuginosa			X							1	
broadleaf milkweed	A. latifolia										0	
Lemmon’s milkweed	A. lemmonii										0	
pineneedle milkweed	A. linaria										0	
slim milkweed	A. linearis										0	
longleaf milkweed	A. longifolia Michx.										0	
longhood milkweed	A. macrotis										0	
Mead’s milkweed	A. meadii										0	
Caribbean milkweed	A. nivea										0	
zizotes milkweed	A. oenotheroides										0	
oval-leaf milkweed	A. ovalifolia	X	X	X			X			X	5	
savannah milkweed	A. pedicellata										0	
aquatic milkweed	A. perennis										0	
balloonplant	A. physocarpa										0	
prostrate milkweed	A. prostrata										0	
purple milkweed	A. purpurascens						X				1	
fourleaf milkweed	A. quadrifolia						X				1	
slimpod milkweed	A. quinqueidentata										0	
red milkweed	A. rubra										0	
showy milkweed	A. speciosa	X	X	X						X	4	
slimleaf milkweed	A. stenophylla										0	
rush milkweed	A. subulata										0	
horsetail milkweed	A. subverticillata										0	
prairie milkweed	A. sullivantii						X				1	
common milkweed	A. syriaca			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7	
Texas milkweed	A. texana										0	
tuba milkweed	A. tomentosa										0	
butterfly milkweed	A. tuberosa			X					X		2	
wheel milkweed	A. uncialis										0	
redring milkweed	A. variegata						X				1	
whorled milkweed	A. verticillata			X			X			X	3	
woolly milkweed	A. vestita										0	
green comet milkweed	A. viridiflora	X	X	X			X			X	5	
green antelopehorn	A. viridis										0	
southern milkweed	A. viridula										0	
No. of Species:		53	3	3	8	2	2	11	2	4	5	

Common Name	Scientific Name	USA															No. States
		AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DC	DE	FL	GA	HI	IA	ID	IL	IN	
clasping milkweed	A. amplexicaulis	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	35
Arizona milkweed	A. angustifolia			X													1
spider milkweed	A. asperula			X	X	X								X			11
California milkweed	A. californica				X												1
bloodflower	A. curassavica				X				X		X						8
woollypod milkweed	A. eriocarpa				X												1
desert milkweed	A. erosa			X	X												4
poke milkweed	A. exaltata	X					X	X	X		X		X		X	X	28
Mexican whorled milkweed	A. fascicularis				X									X			6
Florida milkweed	A. feayi									X							1
African milkweed	A. fruticosa				X												1
nodding milkweed	A. glaucescens			X													3
green milkweed	A. hirtella	X	X	X							X		X		X	X	18
pinewoods milkweed	A. humistrata	X								X	X						7
swamp milkweed	A. incarnata	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	44
dwarf milkweed	A. involucrata			X		X											7
Utah milkweed	A. labriiformis																1
fewflower milkweed	A. lanceolata	X							X	X	X						13
sidecluster milkweed	A. lanuginosa												X		X		8
broadleaf milkweed	A. latifolia			X	X	X											10
Lemmon's milkweed	A. lemmonii			X													1
pineneedle milkweed	A. linaria			X	X												3
slim milkweed	A. linearis																1
longleaf milkweed	A. longifolia Michx.	X	X						X	X	X						13
longhood milkweed	A. macrotis			X		X											5
Mead's milkweed	A. meadii												X		X	X	6
Caribbean milkweed	A. nivea																2
zizotes milkweed	A. oenotheroides			X		X											6
oval-leaf milkweed	A. ovalifolia												X		X		9
savannah milkweed	A. pedicellata									X	X						4
aquatic milkweed	A. perennis	X	X							X	X				X	X	13
balloonplant	A. physocarpa											X					1
prostrate milkweed	A. prostrata																1
purple milkweed	A. purpurascens		X				X	X	X		X		X		X	X	33
fourleaf milkweed	A. quadrifolia	X	X				X		X		X				X	X	25
slimpod milkweed	A. quinqueidentata			X													3
red milkweed	A. rubra	X	X					X	X	X	X						16
showy milkweed	A. speciosa			X	X	X							X	X	X		22
slimleaf milkweed	A. stenophylla		X			X							X		X		14
rush milkweed	A. subulata			X	X												3
horsetail milkweed	A. subverticillata			X		X								X			12
prairie milkweed	A. sullivantii		X										X		X	X	14
common milkweed	A. syriaca	X	X				X	X	X		X		X		X	X	39
Texas milkweed	A. texana																1
tuba milkweed	A. tomentosa									X	X						6
butterfly milkweed	A. tuberosa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	42
wheel milkweed	A. uncialis			X		X											8
redring milkweed	A. variegata	X	X				X	X	X	X	X				X	X	25
whorled milkweed	A. verticillata	X	X				X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	41
woolly milkweed	A. vestita				X												1
green comet milkweed	A. viridiflora	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	38
green antelopehorn	A. viridis	X	X							X	X				X	X	18
southern milkweed	A. viridula									X	X						3
No. of Species:		53	16	15	19	13	12	10	10	13	17	20	2	15	5	19	15

Common Name	Scientific Name	USA														No. States
		KS	KY	LA	MA	MD	ME	MI	MN	MO	MS	MT	NC	ND	NE	
clasping milkweed	A. amplexicaulis	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	35
Arizona milkweed	A. angustifolia															1
spider milkweed	A. asperula	X													X	11
California milkweed	A. californica															1
bloodflower	A. curassavica			X												8
woollypod milkweed	A. eriocarpa															1
desert milkweed	A. erosa															4
poke milkweed	A. exaltata		X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X			28
Mexican whorled milkweed	A. fascicularis															6
Florida milkweed	A. feayi															1
African milkweed	A. fruticosa															1
nodding milkweed	A. glaucescens															3
green milkweed	A. hirtella	X	X	X				X	X	X	X					18
pinewoods milkweed	A. humistrata			X							X		X			7
swamp milkweed	A. incarnata	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	44
dwarf milkweed	A. involucrata	X														7
Utah milkweed	A. labriformis															1
fewflower milkweed	A. lanceolata			X		X					X		X			13
sidecluster milkweed	A. lanuginosa	X							X					X	X	8
broadleaf milkweed	A. latifolia	X													X	10
Lemmon's milkweed	A. lemmonii															1
pineneedle milkweed	A. linaria															3
slim milkweed	A. linearis															1
longleaf milkweed	A. longifolia Michx.			X		X					X		X			13
longhood milkweed	A. macrotis															5
Mead's milkweed	A. meadii	X								X						6
Caribbean milkweed	A. nivea															2
zizotes milkweed	A. oenotheroides			X												6
oval-leaf milkweed	A. ovalifolia							X	X			X		X		9
savannah milkweed	A. pedicellata												X			4
aquatic milkweed	A. perennis		X	X						X	X					13
balloonplant	A. physocarpa															1
prostrate milkweed	A. prostrata															1
purple milkweed	A. purpurascens	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	33
fourleaf milkweed	A. quadrifolia	X	X		X					X			X			25
slimpod milkweed	A. quinqueidentata															3
red milkweed	A. rubra			X		X					X		X			16
showy milkweed	A. speciosa	X						X	X			X		X	X	22
slimleaf milkweed	A. stenophylla	X		X					X	X		X			X	14
rush milkweed	A. subulata															3
horsetail milkweed	A. subverticillata	X								X					X	12
prairie milkweed	A. sullivantii	X						X	X	X				X	X	14
common milkweed	A. syriaca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	39
Texas milkweed	A. texana															1
tuba milkweed	A. tomentosa										X		X			6
butterfly milkweed	A. tuberosa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	42
wheel milkweed	A. uncialis															8
redring milkweed	A. variegata		X	X		X				X	X		X			25
whorled milkweed	A. verticillata	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	41
woolly milkweed	A. vestita															1
green comet milkweed	A. viridiflora	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	38
green antelopehorn	A. viridis	X	X	X						X	X				X	18
southern milkweed	A. viridula										X					3
No. of Species:		53	19	13	18	8	12	6	12	14	16	17	7	16	8	15

Common Name	Scientific Name	USA														No. States
		NH	NJ	NM	NV	NY	OH	OK	OR	PA	PR	RI	SC	SD	TN	
clasping milkweed	A. amplexicaulis	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X		X	35
Arizona milkweed	A. angustifolia															1
spider milkweed	A. asperula			X	X			X								11
California milkweed	A. californica															1
bloodflower	A. curassavica										X				X	8
woollypod milkweed	A. eriocarpa															1
desert milkweed	A. erosa				X											4
poke milkweed	A. exaltata	X	X			X	X			X		X	X		X	28
Mexican whorled milkweed	A. fascicularis				X				X							6
Florida milkweed	A. feayi															1
African milkweed	A. fruticosa															1
nodding milkweed	A. glaucescens			X												3
green milkweed	A. hirtella						X								X	18
pinewoods milkweed	A. humistrata												X			7
swamp milkweed	A. incarnata	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	44
dwarf milkweed	A. involucrata			X				X								7
Utah milkweed	A. labriformis															1
fewflower milkweed	A. lanceolata		X										X		X	13
sidecluster milkweed	A. lanuginosa													X		8
broadleaf milkweed	A. latifolia			X				X						X		10
Lemmon's milkweed	A. lemmonii															1
pineneedle milkweed	A. linaria			X												3
slim milkweed	A. linearis															1
longleaf milkweed	A. longifolia Michx.												X			13
longhood milkweed	A. macrotis			X				X								5
Mead's milkweed	A. meadii															6
Caribbean milkweed	A. nivea										X					2
zizotes milkweed	A. oenotheroides			X				X								6
oval-leaf milkweed	A. ovalifolia													X		9
savannah milkweed	A. pedicellata												X			4
aquatic milkweed	A. perennis												X		X	13
balloonplant	A. physocarpa															1
prostrate milkweed	A. prostrata															1
purple milkweed	A. purpurascens	X	X			X	X	X		X		X		X	X	33
fourleaf milkweed	A. quadrifolia	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X		X	25
slimpod milkweed	A. quinqueidentata			X												3
red milkweed	A. rubra		X			X				X			X			16
showy milkweed	A. speciosa			X	X			X	X					X		22
slimleaf milkweed	A. stenophylla							X						X		14
rush milkweed	A. subulata				X											3
horsetail milkweed	A. subverticillata			X	X			X								12
prairie milkweed	A. sullivantii						X	X						X		14
common milkweed	A. syriaca	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	39
Texas milkweed	A. texana															1
tuba milkweed	A. tomentosa												X			6
butterfly milkweed	A. tuberosa	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	42
wheel milkweed	A. uncialis			X	X			X								8
redring milkweed	A. variegata		X			X	X	X		X			X		X	25
whorled milkweed	A. verticillata		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	41
woolly milkweed	A. vestita															1
green comet milkweed	A. viridiflora		X	X		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	38
green antelopehorn	A. viridis						X	X					X		X	18
southern milkweed	A. viridula															3
No. of Species:		53	7	12	15	8	11	13	20	3	11	2	8	17	15	

Common Name	Scientific Name	USA									No.
		TX	UT	VA	VI	VT	WA	WI	WV	WY	States
clasping milkweed	A. amplexicaulis	X		X		X		X	X		35
Arizona milkweed	A. angustifolia										1
spider milkweed	A. asperula	X	X								11
California milkweed	A. californica										1
bloodflower	A. curassavica	X			X						8
woollypod milkweed	A. eriocarpa										1
desert milkweed	A. erosa		X								4
poke milkweed	A. exaltata			X		X		X	X		28
Mexican whorled milkweed	A. fascicularis		X				X				6
Florida milkweed	A. feayi										1
African milkweed	A. fruticosa										1
nodding milkweed	A. glaucescens	X									3
green milkweed	A. hirtella							X	X		18
pinewoods milkweed	A. humistrata										7
swamp milkweed	A. incarnata	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	44
dwarf milkweed	A. involucrata	X	X								7
Utah milkweed	A. labriformis		X								1
fewflower milkweed	A. lanceolata	X		X							13
sidecluster milkweed	A. lanuginosa							X			8
broadleaf milkweed	A. latifolia	X	X								10
Lemmon's milkweed	A. lemmonii										1
pineneedle milkweed	A. linaria										3
slim milkweed	A. linearis	X									1
longleaf milkweed	A. longifolia Michx.	X		X					X		13
longhood milkweed	A. macrotis	X									5
Mead's milkweed	A. meadii							X			6
Caribbean milkweed	A. nivea				X						2
zizotes milkweed	A. oenotheroides	X									6
oval-leaf milkweed	A. ovalifolia							X		X	9
savannah milkweed	A. pedicellata										4
aquatic milkweed	A. perennis	X									13
balloonplant	A. physocarpa										1
prostrate milkweed	A. prostrata	X									1
purple milkweed	A. purpurascens	X		X				X	X		33
fourleaf milkweed	A. quadrifolia	X		X		X			X		25
slimpod milkweed	A. quinquedentata	X									3
red milkweed	A. rubra	X		X							16
showy milkweed	A. speciosa	X	X				X	X		X	22
slimleaf milkweed	A. stenophylla	X								X	14
rush milkweed	A. subulata										3
horsetail milkweed	A. subverticillata	X	X							X	12
prairie milkweed	A. sullivantii							X			14
common milkweed	A. syriaca	X		X		X		X	X		39
Texas milkweed	A. texana	X									1
tuba milkweed	A. tomentosa	X									6
butterfly milkweed	A. tuberosa	X	X	X		X		X	X		42
wheel milkweed	A. uncialis	X	X							X	8
redring milkweed	A. variegata	X		X					X		25
whorled milkweed	A. verticillata	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	41
woolly milkweed	A. vestita										1
green comet milkweed	A. viridiflora	X		X				X	X	X	38
green antelopehorn	A. viridis	X							X		18
southern milkweed	A. viridula										3
No. of Species:		53	30	11	13	3	7	2	14	13	8