

# Insect Fact and Fiction

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# Insects are intertwined with myths and misconceptions

Myths: Dragonflies are spirits of rice

Misinformation: Ticks jump from trees

Misunderstandings: who's the best pollinator?



[http://www2.artsia.org/blogs/files/2012/12/Dragonfly\\_Bubblers.jpg](http://www2.artsia.org/blogs/files/2012/12/Dragonfly_Bubblers.jpg)

# Purpose of the Presentation

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## Goals:

- Useful information
- Interesting information
- Pollinators and non-Pollinators
  - Bees
  - Milkweed/Butterflies
  - 'Other'



# Bees, Wasps, and Hornets:

## What's in a name?



### Bumble Bees

- Fuzzy
- Round(er)
- Less aggressive
- Pollinators



### Wasps - Vespidae

- Includes all Yellow Jackets and Hornets
- Slim waist
- Aggressive
- Predators



### Hornets (genus *Vespa*)

- Small subset of wasps
- Not native to North America
- Baldfaced hornet is actually a type of yellowjacket (*Dolichovespula/Vespula*)

# Bee and Wasp Stings

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Is it true some bees can only sting once?

## HONEY BEE STINGS

- Barbed stingers
- Can only sting a human once



## WASP AND BUMBLE BEE STINGS

- Relatively smooth stingers
- Can sting multiple times



# Leave my house alone!

Carpenter bees – how much damage are they really doing?

- Usually not as bad as it looks (but sometimes it is)



# Leave my house alone!

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So how do I get rid of them?

- Plug holes to discourage continued nesting
- Paint/finish exposed wood
- Pesticide use is always last step in IPM approach





# Battle of the Best Pollinator

Are butterflies the best pollinators?



# Milkweed Communities

Do only monarchs use milkweed?



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Do only monarchs use milkweed?



Milkweed Tussock Moth



Milkweed  
Longhorn Beetle



Eastern Comma Butterfly



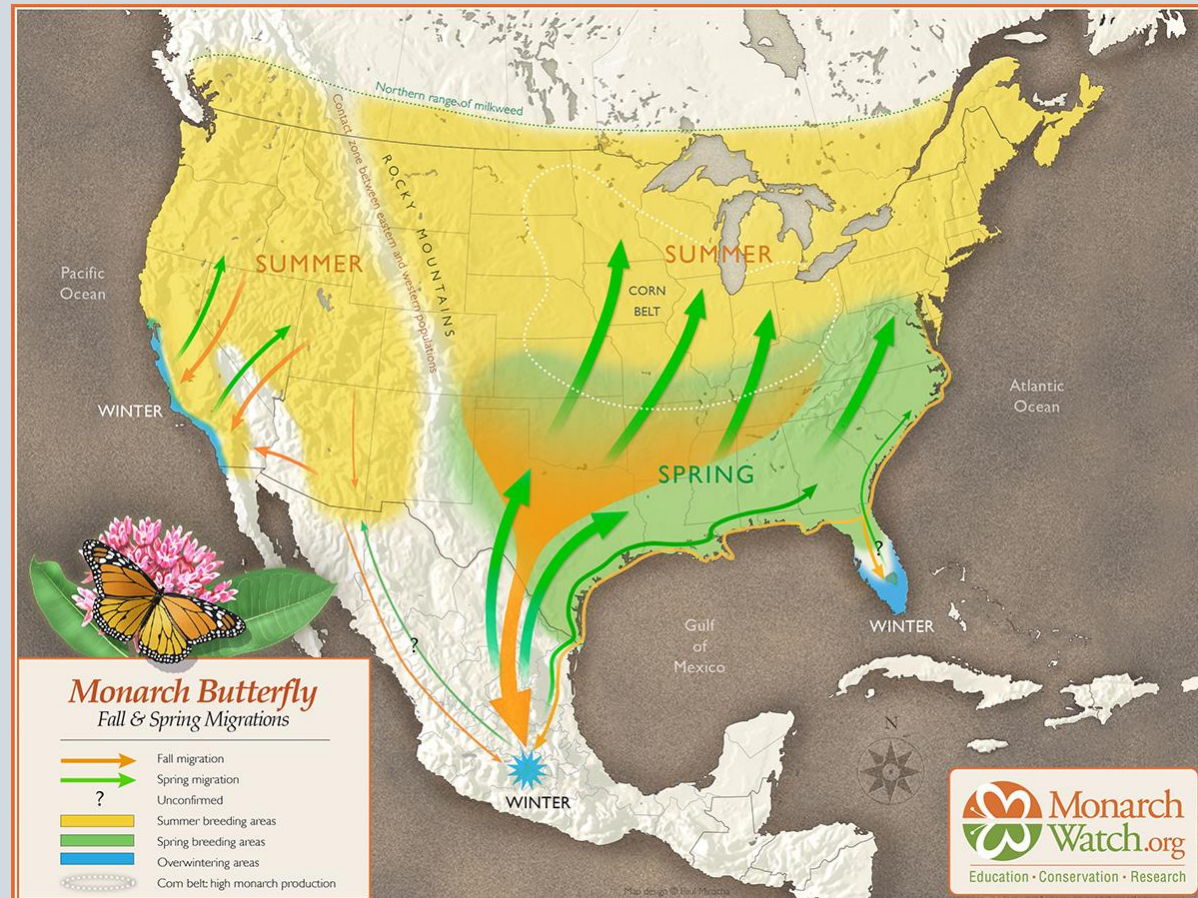


# Insect Migration - 3,000 Miles

Do only monarchs migrate?



Monarch butterfly – *Danaus plexippus*





# Insect Migration - 2,500 Miles

Do only monarchs migrate?

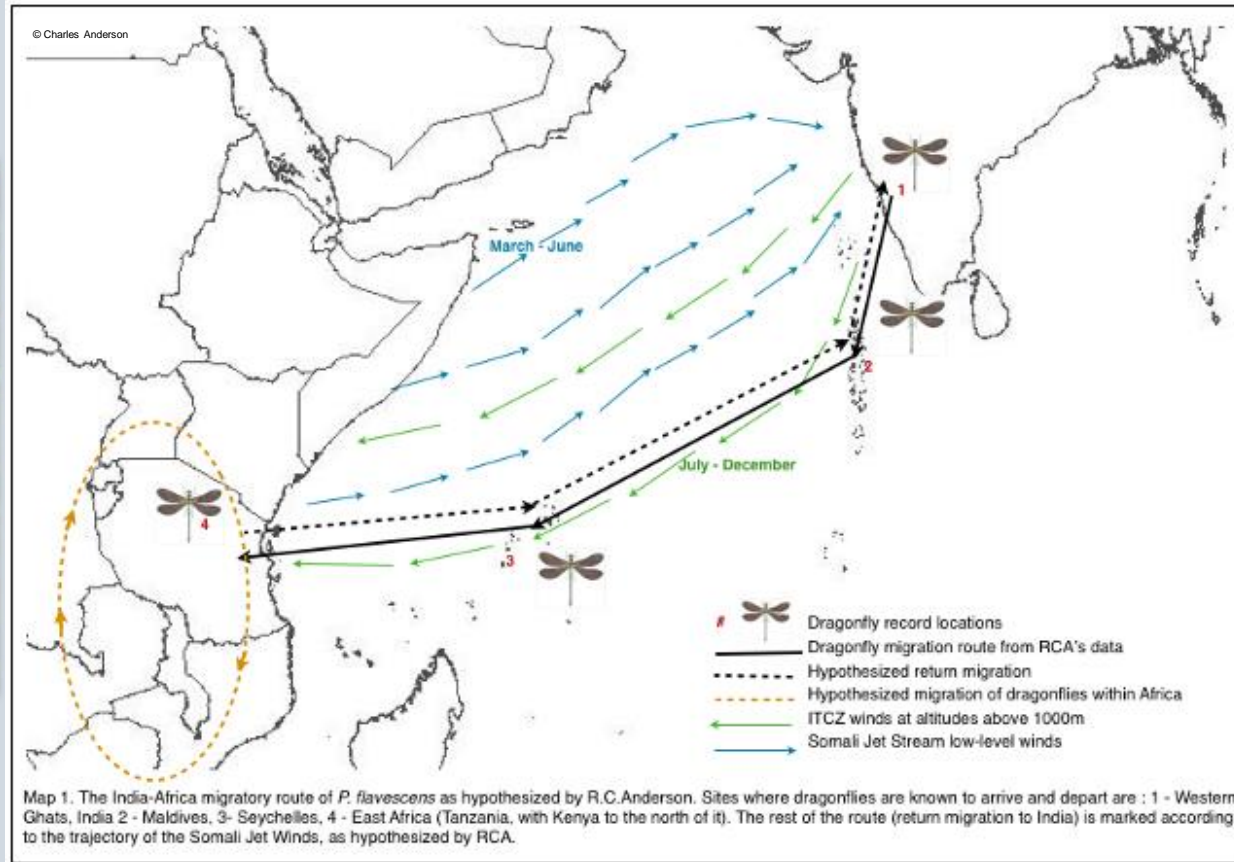


Painted Lady – *Vanessa cardui*



# Insect Migration - 11,200 Miles

Do only monarchs migrate?



Wandering glider – *Pantala flavescens*

# Ticks

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Do ticks jump? Fly?

- No! They always start low and move up.





So many  
facts, so  
little time

Questions?

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