

## Larval stage

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A monarch butterfly caterpillar feeds on a milkweed plant in Audubon Park, just across St. Charles Avenue from the Tulane University uptown campus. Monarch caterpillars depend solely on these plants as a food source, and a new study published in Scientific Reports warns that the eastern monarch population could be facing “quasi-extinction” as a result of milkweed becoming less common on U.S. cropland.