



# INSECT FIELD STUDY FACT SHEET

Monarch butterfly.

This fact sheet provides information about VIA HFR's insect study program. It tells you how to get answers to your questions and give us your comments. Your insights will help shape the program.

## What is an insect study?

An insect study focuses on insects (including moths and butterflies) and where they live. The study will help HFR planners protect insects while building and operating the new railway.

## Key terms

### **Insect**

Insects are the most diverse group of animals, with more than a million described species; they represent more than half of all animal species. They are grouped together into two sub-classes called the Apterygota (wingless insects) and the Pterygota (winged insects). They have bodies divided into three segments, three pairs of jointed legs, no backbones, a hard exoskeleton (a skeleton on the outside of the body) and hatch from eggs.

### **Monarch Butterfly**

A large butterfly, with striking orange, black and white markings. Each fall, monarchs migrate from southern Canada to their wintering sites in the mountain forests of Mexico. This is one of the world's longest insect migrations.

### **Pollination**

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from one plant to another, to produce seeds. This is most often by an insect, animal or the wind.



## Why study insects?

Insects play an important role in the ecosystem by pollinating plants and decomposing waste. In 2024, insects will be studied to confirm the presence of Monarch Butterflies. Monarch Butterfly species are federally endangered and play an important role as pollinators. By conducting these studies, HFR planners will better understand these insects and how their habitats might change while building and operating the new railway, what is needed to protect them, and determine a baseline for future studies.



Monach butterfly.

## What do insect studies involve?




Insect studies for the Monarch Butterfly involve walking through its known habitat near the project and recording the density of its host plant, milkweed, and the number of Monarch Butterflies present (i.e., adults, caterpillars, egg masses) on the existing railroad right-of-way.

These studies will be complemented by other sources of information, including Indigenous knowledge (when provided).

## When will insect studies occur?

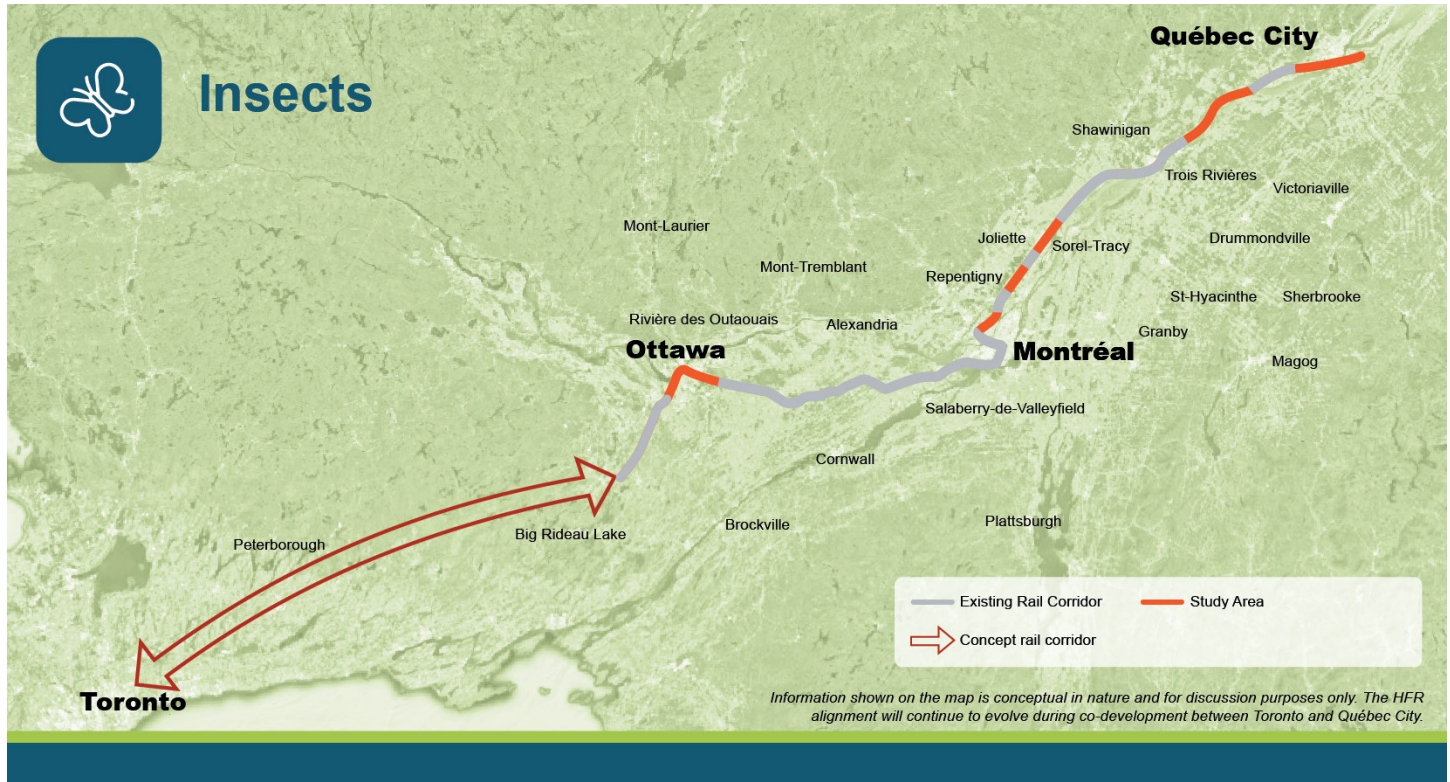
Insects are best detected during the breeding season. Monarch Butterfly studies will be conducted during daylight hours from June to early July 2024, when Monarch Butterflies lay eggs and those eggs transform into caterpillars and then into butterflies.

Study Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Insects												



## Where are insect studies taking place?

The 2024 insect studies will take place along sections of existing railway routes in Ontario, from Twin Elm up to Ottawa and down to Vars, and in Québec near Laval to the 740 highway in Québec City.



## Where can I learn more about HFR?

If you're interested in getting more information, or if you have a question or comment, please visit [www.hfr-tgf.ca](http://www.hfr-tgf.ca). You may also contact the HFR Team via email at: [questions@hfr-tgf.ca](mailto:questions@hfr-tgf.ca)

For more information on Canada's impact-assessment process, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html>