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"Monarchs of the Great Plains: Plant Power and Colonial Legacies in North America"

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Resplendent in shades of orange and black as they float along the breeze, migratory Monarch butterflies have ridden the gusts of transformation over the last centuries on the Great Plains. Known as “milkweed butterfly” because of its close relationship with its host plant, milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*),1 the Monarch is perhaps North America’s most charismatic insect, and its delicate appearance belies a resilience and endurance that defies expectations. Indeed, the erratic demographic history of the migratory Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) adds an unexpected insight to the legacy of European settlement of North America. (From the article)

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