



# PROJECT MONARCH ALERT TAGGING INSTRUCTIONS

(adapted from Monarch Watch)

**TAG #** - Record the entire 5 digit tag number

**SEX** – Record whether the butterfly is a male (M) or female (F).

Males have thinner vein pigmentation and a black “dot” (a hindwing pouch) on the hindwing, as well as claspers on the end of the abdomen. Females have thicker vein pigmentation, no black dots on the hindwing, and no claspers on the end of the abdomen. See illustration below.



MALE MONARCH BUTTERFLY



FEMALE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

**DATE** – Record the entire date (month, day, year)

**LOCATION** – Record the location where you tagged. This can be the name of a park, school, etc, but we also need the nearest city and state.

## APPLYING TAGS:

**We find it is easier to work with a partner. One person records the data and hands over the tags, while the other handles the butterfly and applies the tags.**

1. Carefully hold a monarch between your thumb and index finger along the leading edge of the butterfly's forewings and locate the distal cell (the large mitten-shaped cell on the hindwing). See figure A.
2. Record all data before removing tag from sheet
3. Remove a tag by its edge from the sheet (a toothpick may be helpful), place it over the distal cell, and carefully apply pressure to the tag from both sides of the butterfly (figure B). Press firmly for several seconds and release the butterfly—making sure all information is recorded first!

**Try not to let the tag stick to any other surface (such as your finger) before applying it to the butterfly—to be effective, the adhesive surface of the tag must be clean when applied to the wing.**

**HAPPY TAGGING!**

