

### **Quick overview**

The amount of monarch butterflies in California is rapidly declining. This beautiful and unique butterfly will become extinct if no action is undertaken in the upcoming years. In 2018, we went out to Cañada de Los Osos Ecological Reserve (CDLO) in Gilroy, CA to gather data on the monarch population and possible predators.

We found 216 monarch eggs but less than 1 % of the eggs and caterpillars made it into an adult butterfly. During an experiment we saw that there was one ladybug that was responsible for eating 88 % of butterfly eggs.

To better understand the low survival of monarchs and the impact from ladybugs on monarchs we will gather more data in 2019. We aim to determine the size of the monarch population and to gather data on the population of ladybugs at CDLO. With this data we can make better efforts toward conserving the monarch butterfly.