
Inventory of the Harry Hyde Laidlaw Papers,1882-2000

Department of Special Collections

General Library

University of California, Davis

100 North West Quad

Davis, CA 95616-5292

Phone: (530) 752-1621

Fax: (530)754-5758

Email: speccoll@lib.ucdavis.edu

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Note

Biological and Medical Sciences--Biological Sciences--Entomology

Inventory of the Harry Hyde Laidlaw Papers, 1882-2000

D-081

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University of California, Davis
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Contact Information

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Processed and encoded by: Sara Gunasekara
Completed: 2004

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Harry Hyde Laidlaw Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1882-2000

Collection number: D-081

Creator: Laidlaw, Harry Hyde, 1907-

Extent: 9.40 linear feet

Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Dept. of Special Collections.
100 North West Quad
Davis, California, 95616-5292

Abstract: Harry Hyde Laidlaw, considered the "father of honey bee genetics," was a professor in the UC Davis Department of Entomology from 1947-1974. He was best known for developing artificial insemination technology for honey bees and his contributions enabled selective breeding of honey bees and the fundamental study of insect genetics. His papers contain correspondence, writings, research materials, course materials, and photographs.

Physical location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored offsite.

Language: English.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Harry Hyde Laidlaw Papers, D-081, Department of Special Collections, University of California Library, Davis, California.

Acquisition Information

Acquired in 2003.

Processing Information

Arrangement and description by Sara Gunasekara. Student employee Renee Therriault provided assistance in processing this collection.

Biographical Narrative

Harry Hyde Laidlaw (April 12, 1907-September 19, 2003) was born in Houston and spent his late boyhood and teen years in Virginia, Florida and Louisiana. His keen interest in bee breeding started in childhood and he began working as a beekeeper with his grandfather, Charles Quinn. Together they experimented with mating queen bees and control breeding.

In 1934, Laidlaw completed a master's degree in entomology from Louisiana State University; in 1939, he earned a doctorate in genetics and entomology from the University of Wisconsin.

Two years later, he was inducted into the U.S. Army, commissioned, and served as the Army entomologist for the First Service Command in Boston. While there, he met Ruth Collins. They were married in 1946 and made their first home in New York City, where he worked as a civilian entomologist for the Army.

In 1947, he joined the UCD department of entomology. Best known for developing artificial insemination technology for honey bees -- and recognized by peers worldwide as the "father of honey bee genetics" -- his contributions enabled selective breeding of honey bees and the fundamental study of insect genetics.

He authored numerous scientific publications and four books, and was the recipient of national and international awards for his research and his service to the university, agriculture and the beekeeping industry.

In addition, he served as the first associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture in 1969. He retired from UCD in 1974, but remained active in outreach efforts on its behalf. From 1980 to 1985 he established a honey bee breeding program for the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture as part of a joint UC-Egypt agricultural development program. He continued to publish scientific papers and modify and refine his instruments for artificial insemination, and wrote two new books. Laidlaw published his last scientific paper at age 87 and his last book at 90.

In 2001, UCD's Bee Biology laboratory was renamed the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection is arranged in eight series: 1. Biographical Materials, 2. Correspondence, 3. Writings, 4. Research Materials, 5. Course Materials, 6. Printed materials, 7. Memorabilia, 8. Photographs.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Laidlaw, Harry Hyde,--1907

University of California, Davis--Faculty--Archives

Bee Culture--Queen rearing

Honeybee--Breeding

Box 1	Series 1 Biographical Materials Physical Description: Scope and Content Note Contains newspaper clippings, certificates, items about his retirement and the dedication of the Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility. Arranged alphabetically. Note
Box 1-2	Series 2 Correspondence Physical Description: Scope and Content Note Arranged alphabetically. Note

Box 2-3

Series 3 **Writings**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Contains reprints, talks, and manuscripts of Laidlaw's books. Arranged alphabetically.

Note

Series 4 **Research Materials**

Physical Description:

Note

Box 3-5

Subseries 4.1 **Files**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Note

Box 6-7

Subseries 4.2 **Card files**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Note

Box 5, 10

Subseries 4.3 **Drawings**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Contains drawings of Laidlaw's insemination instruments.

Note

Box 5,7

Subseries 4.4 **Genetics records**

Physical Description:

Note

Box 5

Series 5 **Course Materials**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Contains materials for Laidlaw's entomology courses at the University of California, Davis, as well as files for continuing education courses that he taught at several universities in Canada.

Note

Box 5,8

Series 6 **Printed materials**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Contains reprints of various articles, brochures from the U.S Department of Agriculture, and pamphlets on beekeeping.

Note

Box 9

Series 7 **Memorabilia**

Physical Description:

Note

Box 9

Series 8 **Photographs**

Physical Description:

Scope and Content Note

Contains photographs for Laidlaw's books as well as photographs of Alabama apiaries in the 1930's.

Note