Guide to the Cornelius H. Muller Files MS.01

Finding aid prepared by Laurie Hannah.
Arrangement and description of this collection funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. C.H. Muller Library
University of California
Harder South MS 9615
Santa Barbara, CA, 93106
805-893-2401
Title: Muller (Cornelius H.) Files
Identifier/Call Number: MS.01
Contributing Institution: Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. C.H. Muller Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 30.75 Linear feet: 8 record cartons, 4 photo boxes, 12 oversize folders, artifacts
Date (inclusive): 1931-1996
Language of Material: Some publications in German and some correspondence in Spanish, French, and German.
Abstract: Correspondence, publications, field notes, research notes, and photographs relating to the career of plant ecologist C.H. Muller.
creator: Muller, Cornelius H.
Arrangement note
The papers are organized into six series as follows. Series 1. Correspondence, 1936-1996. Arrangement is alphabetical by correspondent and then chronological within each folder. Subject files are arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Series 2. Research and Publications; Series 3. Faculty and Professional Papers; Series 4. Personal Papers; Series 5. Maps; Series 6 Artifacts.
Conditions Governing Access note
Collection open for research.
Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Donated in two gifts in 2005 and 2007 by Robert Muller.
Preferred Citation note
Cornelius H. Muller Files. MS-01. Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Processing Information note
Collection arranged and described by Laurie Hannah with assistance from Sarah Vitone. Arrangement and description funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Related Archival Materials note
A small subset of photocopies of these papers constitute a series of bound volumes in the Museum of Systematics institutional files (RG-01) that were compiled by former Herbarium curator Wayne Ferren. They deal predominantly with Muller's work on oaks and include correspondence, field notes, and grant proposals. Information on Muller's role as founder and Curator of the UCSB Herbarium can be found in the series Herbarium Correspondence. Correspondence and other files relating to Muller's work on the Special Guayule Research Project are also located in the archives of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.
Separated Materials note
Muller's books, reprint collection, and some bound maps have been added to the library collection. They are accessible through the library catalog. Several photograph prints and slides have been removed from correspondence folders and are housed together with Muller's other photographs in a separate photograph collection, part of series II.
Scope and Contents note
This collection documents the botanical research and teaching career of Cornelius Muller. The bulk of the material relates to Muller's research on oaks, chemical ecology, or allelopathy, and plant classification and vegetation studies of plants from the southwestern United States and Latin America, resulting in over 110 publications over the course of his long career. The collection includes correspondence, field notes, research notes, experimental data, unpublished drafts and published articles, photographs, drawings, maps, and artifacts, such as lab and field equipment. The bulk of the papers fall into the Research and Publications Series. Field notes describe plants and vegetation that Muller and his wife Katherine collected and observed on collecting trips to Mexico, Texas, the southwestern and southeastern United States, Cuba, and in California. The guayule subseries contains data on experiments conducted at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in the 1940s, additional notes, and the original drawings for the publication Root Development and Ecological Relations of Guayule. The Quercus subseries includes correspondence, notes, data on individual species, and notes on Muller’s trips to European herbaria. Experimental Plant Ecology subseries consists of research data on allelopathy, inhibition, and plant toxins of California native plants compiled by Muller, his colleague Walter Muller, and various graduate students from 1961-1966, that resulted in at least six publications. Included are gas chromatography data, bioassays, and field notes for various experiments conducted in the Santa Ynez Valley region and elsewhere in Santa Barbara. The
Publications subseries contains drafts, notes, and correspondence for some of Muller’s publications, as well as unpublished writings. (A complete set of Muller’s publications are catalogued in the library.) A separate photograph subseries complements the collecting trips and various publications.

Biographical/Historical note
Cornelius H. Muller or Neil, as he was known to his colleagues and family, had a long and distinguished career as a plant ecologist and plant taxonomist. After graduating from University of Illinois in 1938 with a PhD in Botany, Muller worked for the Illinois Natural History Survey for one year and then for the USDA in various capacities from 1938-1945. Summers were usually spent on plant collecting trips to Mexico, the Southwest, and the southern United States. His work focused on vegetation studies in Texas and Mexico and most prominently on oaks. Muller married Katherine Kinsel, also a botanist, who directed the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from 1950-1973. She was a partner with her husband in much of his vegetation studies and oak collecting trips, sharing in the creation of the extensive field notes found in this collection. He and Katherine also collaborated on a publication about Jean Louis Berlandier’s plant collecting in Mexico in the 1820s. Their son, Robert, is a plant ecologist and is also a correspondent in these papers.

From 1938 to 1942 Muller worked for the USDA Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, naming and classifying plant specimens. As a result of this work, he published *A Revision of the Genus Lycopersicon* and *The Central American Species of Quercus*. During World War II, he worked for the Bureau of Plant Industry on the Special Guayule Research Project on a series of experiments on root development. His results were published in the USDA Technical Bulletin 923 entitled *Root Development and Ecological Relations of Guayule*. In 1945 he began teaching at UCSB (then known as Santa Barbara College). He helped develop the botany major in 1947 and taught various courses in botany and ecology until 1976 when he retired from UCSB. He continued in a teaching capacity as Adjunct Professor of Botany at University of Texas from 1974 to 1992.

At UCSB, Muller founded the Herbarium in the early 1950s and was Curator from 1956 to 1964. In addition to his teaching duties, during his years at UCSB Muller conducted numerous research studies, funded partly by four National Science Foundation grants, on allelopathic mechanisms in California plant communities and systematics and evolution of the species *Quercus*. He published over 110 articles and books, peer reviewed numerous articles and proposals, and supervised and worked with over 15 graduate students. He published two monographs: *The Central American Species of Quercus* and *The Oaks of Texas*, as well as provided treatments for the genus in *Arizona Flora, Flora of Panama, Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas*, and *Flora North America*.

Throughout his career, Muller took collecting trips to Costa Rica, Cedros Island off of Baja California, Texas, Southern California, and Mexico, and went twice to Europe in the 1950s to study oak specimens at various herbaria. In the course of his years at UCSB, Muller deposited over 15,000 oak specimens in the UCSB herbarium, including 90 type specimens. He was named Faculty Research Lecturer in 1957, the third faculty member to receive the title, honoring distinguished research achievement both locally and abroad. In 1975 Muller was honored for his work in ecology by being named Eminent Ecologist for 1975, a prestigious award given by the Ecological Society of America. He was also honored for his work in oak systematics by having two plants named after him: *Quercus cornelius-mulleri* and *Quercus mulleri*.

Muller passed away in Santa Barbara on January 26, 1997 at the age of 88.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Muller, Cornelius H.
field notes
Oaks--Mexico
Guayule--California
Photographs
Correspondence
Drawings
Oaks--North America
Allelopathy
Artifacts
Guayule--Texas
Maps
Plant ecology--California--Santa Barbara County
Oaks--California
University of California, Santa Barbara
Correspondence 1936-1996

Scope and Contents note
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*Scope and Contents note*

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*Scope and Contents note*

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*Scope and Contents note*

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*Scope and Contents note*

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*Scope and Contents note*

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Scope and Contents note
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Publications

Box 6, Folder 49 Reinterpretation of Desert Scrub and Desert Plains Grassland Climaxes (unpublished draft) c. 1944

Scope and Contents note
Includes handwritten notes and typescript.

Box 6, Folder 50 The Association of Desert Annuals with Shrubs 1952-1953

Scope and Contents note
Includes correspondence, drafts, and abstract for paper presented at the Western Society of Naturalists Conference, 1952.

Box 6, Folder 51 Ecological Degrees of Sympathy in Quercus (unpublished draft)

Box 6, Folder 52 The Origin of Quercus on Cuba 1955

Scope and Contents note
Includes typescript, handwritten notes, and correspondence.

Box 6, Folder 53 Association Patterns Involving Desert Plants Containing Toxic Products 1956

Scope and Contents note
Includes correspondence, various drafts, and a copy of Notes on Succession from the MAB-SCOPE Workshop.

Box 6, Folder 54 Faculty Research Paper 1958

Scope and Contents note
First draft of Science and Philosophy of the Community Concept.

Box 6, Folder 55 Plant Succession in Desert Vegetation?(unpublished draft) 1962

Scope and Contents note
Written in response to an article by Philip Wells entitled Succession in Desert Vegetation on Streets of a Nevada Ghost Town. Includes correspondence to Janice Beatley and others and weather data.

Box 7, Folder 1 A New Species of Quercus from Baja California, Mexico 1962

Box 7, Folder 2 The Climate Concept: Perennial Confoundment (unpublished draft) c. 1963

Box 7, Folder 3 Volatile Growth Inhibitors Produced by Salvia Species 1964

Inhibitory Terpenes Volatilized from Salvia Shrubs 1965
Box 7, Folder 4
Grodzinsky, A.M. Allelopathy, etc. 1965-1966
Language of Material: Translation from Russian for Botany 241.

Box 7, Folder 5
Box 7, Folder 6
The Role of Chemical Competition in Vegetational Patterning 1966
Die Bedeutung der Allelopathe fuer die Zusammenfassung der Vegetation 1967
Language of Material: German translation by Muller of <emph render="italic">The Role of Chemical Inhibition (Allelopathy) in Vegetational Composition</emph>.

Box 7, Folder 7
The Role of Allelopathy in the Evolution of Vegetation (unpublished draft) c. 1970
Box 7, Folder 8
The Role of Animals in Suppression of Herbs by Shrubs (photocopy) 1971
Box 7, Folder 9
Allelopathy in the Environmental Complex (handwritten draft) 1974
Box 7, Folder 10
Differential Distribution of Epiphytic Lichens (typescript and handwritten draft) 1974
Scope and Contents note
Includes correspondence to and article by Philip W. Rundel.

Box 7, Folder 11
Effects of Fire on Factors Controlling Plant Growth in Adenostoma Chaparral 1975
Box 7, Folder 12
Allelopathic Activity by Arctostaphylos in Chaparral-Grassland Ecotones (unpublished draft) 1975
Box 7, Folder 13
The Allelopathic Mechanisms of Dominance in Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) in Southern California 1978
Box 7, Folder 14
A New Combination in Pithecellobium 1979
Box 7, Folder 15
Quercus deligneascens, a New Species from Chihuahua, Mexico 1974
Box 7, Folder 16
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished) c. 1979-1987
Box 7, Folder 17
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished)
Box 7, Folder 18
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished)
Box 7, Folder 19
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished)
Box 7, Folder 20
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished)
Box 7, Folder 21
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished)
Box 7, Folder 22
Quercus treatments, Chihuahuan Desert Flora (unpublished)
Box 7, Folder 23
Oaks of Northeastern Mexico: Tentative Species List with Nomenclature (unpublished draft) 1983
Box 7, Folder 24
Biotically Induced Cliff Formation in Uncontrolled Alluvium in the Santa Ynez Valley, California (unpublished) 1983
Box 7, Folder 25
Oaks of Northeastern Mexico: Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulias (unpublished draft) 1988
Box 7, Folder 26
Quercus palmeri (Engelmann) Engelmann, the Correct Name for the Palmer Oak (unpublished draft) 1989
Box 7, Folder 27
The Taxonomic Resurrection of Quercus laceyi Small (Fagaceae) 1992
Box 7, Folder 28
The Quercus hypoxatha Complex (Fagaceae) in Northeastern Mexico 1993
Box 7, Folder 29
Erythronium Bioassays and Dormancy of Bulbs in Chaparral (handwritten drafts)
Box 7, Folder 30
Plants Described by Jean Louis Berlandier
Box 7, Folder 31
The Biological Dilemma of Liberalism (handwritten draft)
Box 7, Folder 32
Tannin Balm Sandwich 1969
Scope and Contents note
A song about allelopathy sung to the tune of O Christmas Tree.

Box 7, Folder 33
That Fabulous Orchid Industry (unpublished drafts) 1942
Separated Materials note
11 colored negatives of orchids removed and put in photo collection.

Box 7, Folder 34
Nature of the Tropics 1961
Scope and Contents note
1 notebook containing handwritten notes from various publications.
Research and Publications 1931-1996

Publications

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**Photographs**

**Photo_box 1**
- Roll P.I.--Mexico, Cañon Calabozo, Nuevo Leon June 21, 1935
- Roll P.II--Mexico, Cañon Marisio Arriba, Nuevo Leon 1935
- Roll P.III--Mexico, Cañon Guajucu, Nuevo Leon July 3, 1935
- Roll P.IV--Mexico, Cañon de Potrero Redondo, Nuevo Leon July 5, 1935
- Roll P.V--Mexico, Potrero Redondo and Casillas, Nuevo Leon July 6-7, 1935
- Roll P.VI--Mexico, Las Trancas region, Nuevo Leon July 8-21, 1935
- Roll P.VII--Mexico, Cerro Potosi, Nuevo Leon July 21, 1935
- Roll P. VII--Mexico, Las Canoas, Nuevo Leon July 23, 1935
- Roll P. IX--Mexico, Nuevo Leon July 23-August 10, 1935

**Scope and Contents note**
- Several photos of Muller with deer shot in camp in Arroyo Hondo.

**Photo_box 1**
- Roll P.X--Mexico, Oveja and Villa Mainero, Nuevo Leon August 13, 1935
- Roll I--Mexico, Coahuila June 15, 1936
- Roll II--Mexico, Sierra San Lazaro, Coahuila June 15-22, 1936
- Roll III--Mexico, Sierra San Manuel, Coahuila June 26-28, 1936
- Roll IV--Mexico, Coahuila 1936
- Roll V--Mexico, Cañon del Sentinela, Coahuila 1936

**Scope and Contents note**
- Some photos of Muller in camp at Cañon de Sentinela, Sierra del Carmen

**Photo_box 1**
- Roll VI--Mexico, Cañon de Sentinela, Coahuila 1936
- Roll VII--Mexico, Coahuila 1936
- Photos of Mexico and Texas 1939
- Photos of Coahuila and Nuevo Leon, Mexico Aug.-Sept. 1939
- Roll Ph.I--Texas June 2-9, 1945
- Roll Ph.II--Texas June 9-12, 1945
- Roll Ph.III--Texas June 12-15, 1945
- Roll Ph.IV--Texas June 15-16, 1945
- Roll Ph.V--Texas June 19-25, 1945
- Roll Ph.VI--Texas July 10-23, 1945
- Roll Ph.VII--Texas July 23-24, 1945
- Roll Ph.VIII--Texas July 1945
- Sweden and Norway July 1950

**Scope and Contents note**
- Photos of vegetation and habitats near Abisko, Sweden and Solovome, Norway taken during Muller's summer visit to the International Botanical Congress.

**Photo_box 3, Folder 1**
- Mexico 1939

**Photographs**

**Photo_box 3, Folder 2**

**Oaks of Texas, plates 2-75 1948**

**Arrangement note**
- Photos are in plate # order which does not correspond to plate numbers in the book.
- Some plates missing.

**Scope and Contents note**
- Photos of oak herbarium specimens taken by Walter Douglas for Muller's publication *Oaks of Texas*. Photos have Douglas' dates, neg. #, and plate # inscribed on back.
- Some photos annotated by Muller and include plant name, collector and specimen number, and herbarium abbreviation.
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<td>Photo_box 1</td>
<td>Oaks of Texas, plates 2-122</td>
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<td>Photo_box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Misc. Oak Specimens 1948-1993</td>
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<td>Photo_box 3, Folder 5</td>
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<td>Photo_box 3, Folder 11</td>
<td>Misc. Oak Specimens Quercus sapotaefolia August 1965</td>
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<td>Photo_box 3, Folder 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photo_box 1</td>
<td>Slides of Mexican oaks, pines, maps, and guayule illustrations--24 items.</td>
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Photos of *Quercus sapotaefolia* study in Costa Rica taken by Bruce Haines, Aug. 1965.

Mostly duplicates of Arctostaphylos clearing and cow pie patch, used in publications.

Photos of Chang-Hung Chou's experimental site in Santa Ynez Valley. Inscribed on envelope: Chou's site: clearing at end of 3rd growing season. Natural burn (Adenostoma and Arctostaphylos). Photos by Norm Christensen and Muller.

Photos of various types of orchids for an unpublished article (see Box 7, Folder 33.) Includes handwritten notes about each image.

Includes photos of Muller (passport and him at site locality for *Quercus hinkleyi* in Texas); Chang-Hung Chou; attendees of the Institute in Tropical Biology, Costa Rica, 1962; and Santa Cruz Island.

Muller's inscription: Principally Emmenanthe, Sonchus, and sprouts of Arctostaphylos and a little Adenostoma. 2nd growing season following clearing in September 1968.

Slides of Mexican oaks, pines, maps, and guayule illustrations--24 items.
Artifacts--Inventoried separately

### Faculty and Professional Papers

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<td>Includes drawings for Herbarium.</td>
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| Box 8, Folder 2 | Biology Curriculum (incl. new Botany major) 1945-1947 |
| Box 8, Folder 3 | Biology--Personnel Records 1944-1965 |
| Box 8, Folder 4 | Botanic Garden Lab 1947-1950 |
| Scope and Contents note |

- Includes correspondence to Director Maunsell van Rensselaer and specifications for setting up a research lab for UCSB faculty to use at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Faculty research proposals also included.

| Box 8, Folder 5 | Botany Section |
| Box 8, Folder 6 | Equipment |
| Box 8, Folder 7 | Funds (Research) 1949-1976 |
| Box 8, Folder 8 | Fellowships 1949-1950 |
| Box 8, Folder 9 | Guggenheim Foundation 1951 |
| Box 8, Folder 10 | NSF Grant Proposals and Projects (Muller's) bulk 1961-1969 |
| Box 8, Folder 11 | Research Grants 1946-1974 |
| Box 8, Folder 12 | Europe, 1950 |
| Scope and Contents note |

- Travel notes from Muller's trip to attend the International Botanical Congress and study at European herbaria.

| Box 8, Folder 13 | France, Spain, etc. 1950-1951 |
| Box 8, Folder 14 | Stockholm, International Botanical Congress 1949-1953 |
| Box 8, Folder 15 | Sabbatical 1950-1952 |
| Box 8, Folder 16 | Summer 1954-1955 |
| Scope and Contents note |

- Includes correspondence on research in Mexico on Quercus, ser. Virentes.

| Box 8, Folder 17 | Cedros Island [collecting trip] 1960 |
| Box 8, Folder 18 | European Herbaria 1958 |
| Box 8, Folder 19 | PhD Committees 1967-1972 |
| Box 8, Folder 20 | Ecology (Journal)--Editorial Board 1955-1958 |
| Scope and Contents note |

- Includes correspondence with Dwight Billings, William Steere, and Alton Lindsay.

| Box 8, Folder 21 | Manuscripts Reviewed 1942-1984 |
| Box 8, Folder 22 | NSF Proposals Reviewed 1958-1967 |
| Box 8, Folder 23 | NSF Proposals Reviewed 1968-1975 |
| Box 8, Folder 24 | NSF Proposals Reviewed 1977-1986 |
| Box 8, Folder 25 | AAAS Western Section Meeting 1953-1954 |
| Box 8, Folder 26 | Ecological Society of America, Western Section, AAAS Meeting 1953-1956 |
| Box 8, Folder 27 | Western Society of Naturalists--Membership rosters, bylaws 1946-1951 |

**Personal Papers**

| Box 8, Folder 28 | Biographical information |
| Box 8, Folder 29 | Botany Notebooks, Texas Wesleyan College 1935 |
Box 8, Folder 30  Address Book
Maps

Oversize_folder 1  Geologic Maps
Oversize_folder 2  Vegetation and Land Use
Oversize_folder 3  Misc. U.S./Mexico
Oversize_folder 4  Carta General de la Republica Mexicana Bulk 1902-1909
Oversize_folder 5  Misc. Original and Annotated Maps
Oversize_folder 6  Vegetation Types in California 1901
Oversize_folder 7  Vegetation Types in California 1941-1942
Oversize_folder 8  Vegetation Types in California 1941-1942
Oversize_folder 9  Climate and Soil Maps
Oversize_folder 10  Highway/Land Office Maps
Oversize_folder 11  Highway/Land Office Maps
Oversize_folder 12  Highway/Land Office Maps
Oversize_folder 13  Small Misc. Maps