In Aristotle’s teleological view of the world, natural things come to be and are present for the sake of some function or end (for example, wings are present in birds for the sake of flying). Whereas much recent scholarship has focused on uncovering the (meta-)physical underpinnings of Aristotle’s teleology and its contrasts with his notions of chance and necessity, this book examines Aristotle’s use of the theory of natural teleology in producing explanations of natural phenomena. Close analyses of Aristotle’s natural treatises and his Posterior Analytics show what methods are used for the discovery of functions or ends that figure in teleological explanations, how these explanations are structured, and how well they work in making sense of phenomena. The book will be valuable for all those who are interested in Aristotle’s natural science, his philosophy of science, and his biology.

Mariska Leunissen is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis.
EXPLANATION AND TELEOLOGY IN ARISTOTLE’S SCIENCE OF NATURE

MARISKA LEUNISSEN
Washington University in St. Louis
For Jeff
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Abbreviations

ARISTOTLE’S WORKS

APo Analytica Posteriora (Posterior Analytics)
APr Analytica Priora (Prior Analytics)
Cael De Caelo (On the Heavens)
DA De Anima (On the Soul)
EE Ethica Eudemia (Eudemian Ethics)
GA De Generatione Animalium (Generation of Animals)
GC De Generatione et Corruptione (On Generation and Destruction)
HA Historia Animalium (History of Animals)
IA De Incessu Animalium (On Animal Progression)
Juw De Juventute et Venectute (On Youth and Old Age)
MA De Motu Animalium (On Animal Motion)
Meta Metaphysica (Metaphysics)
Meteor Meteorologica (Meteorology)
NE Ethica Nicomachea (Nicomachean Ethics)
PA De Partibus Animalium (On the Parts of Animals)
Ph Physica (Physics)
Pol Politica (Politics)
Resp De Respiratione (On Respiration)
Rb Rhetorica (Rhetoric)
Sens De Sensu et Sensilíbus (On Sense and Sensibilia)
Somn De Somno et Vigilia (On Sleep and Waking)
Top Topica (Topics)

WORKS BY OTHER GREEK AUTHORS

Euclid (Euc.)
El Elements
List of abbreviations

Galenus (Gal.)
  Meth Med  Methodus Medendi (On the Therapeutic Method)
Philoponus (Phlp.)
  In APo  In Aristotelis Analytica Posteriora commentaria
Plato (Pl.)
  R  Republic
  Smp  Symposium
  Ti  Timaeus
Simplicius (Simp.)
  In Cael  In Aristotelis de Caelo commentaria
  In Ph  In Aristotelis Physica commentaria
Xenophon (X.)
  An  Anabasis
  Cyr  Cyropaedia

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

Fr.  Fragment

The texts cited in this book are all taken from the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae Canon of Greek Authors and Works (TLG), 3rd edn. (1990), Oxford. All translations are mine.

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References to Greek Commentators are to H. Diels (ed.), Commentaria in Aristotelem Graeca (CIAG) (1892–1909), Berlin.