Generation of Animals is one of Aristotle’s most mature, sophisticated, and carefully crafted scientific writings. His overall goal is to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of how animals reproduce, including a study of their reproductive organs, what we would call fertilization, embryogenesis, and organogenesis. In this book, international experts present thirteen original essays providing a philosophically and historically informed introduction to this important work. They shed light on the unity and structure of the Generation of Animals, the main theses that Aristotle defends in the work, and the method of inquiry he adopts. They also open up new avenues of exploration of this difficult and still largely unexplored work. The volume will be essential for scholars and students of ancient philosophy as well as of the history and philosophy of science.

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ARISTOTLE’S *GENERATION OF ANIMALS*

*A Critical Guide*

Edited by

ANDREA FALCON
Concordia University

DAVID LEFEBVRE
University of Clermont-Auvergne
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Contributors</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Abbreviations</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: Aristotle’s Philosophy and the <em>Generation of Animals</em></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART I THE UNITY AND STRUCTURE OF ARISTOTLE’S</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERATION OF ANIMALS</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 “One Long Argument”? The Unity of Aristotle’s <em>Generation of Animals</em></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Gottbelf and Andrea Falcon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Parts and Generation: The Prologue to the <em>Generation of Animals</em> and the Structure of the Treatise</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lefebvre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Order and Method in Aristotle’s <em>Generation of Animals</em></td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariska Leunissen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART II THE PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL GENERATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECONSIDERED</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 What Is Aristotle’s <em>Generation of Animals</em> About?</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre Pellegrin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Aristotle on Epigenesis: Two Senses of Epigenesis</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devin Henry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table of Contents

6 A Latent Difficulty in Aristotle's Theory of Semen: The Homogeneous Nature of Semen and the Role of the Frothy Bubble  
**Marwan Rashed**  
108

7 Function and Instrument: Toward a New Criterion of the Scale of Being in Aristotle's *Generation of Animals*  
**Cristina Cerami**  
130

**PART III HYBRIDS, MALE AND FEMALE, PARTICULAR FORMS, AND MONSTERS**  
151

8 Hybridity and Sterility in Aristotle's *Generation of Animals*  
**Jocelyn Groisard**  
153

9 Females in Aristotle's Embryology  
**Jessica Gelber**  
171

10 Something(s) in the Way(s) He Moves: Reconsidering the Embryological Argument for Particular Forms in Aristotle  
**Gregory Salmieri**  
188

11 Aristotle's Explanations of Monstrous Births and Deformities in *Generation of Animals* 4.4  
**Sophia Connell**  
207

**PART IV METHODOLOGY IN ARISTOTLE'S GENERATION OF ANIMALS**  
225

12 The Search for Principles in Aristotle: *Posterior Analytics* 2 and *Generation of Animals* 1  
**Robert Bolton**  
227

13 Aristotle, Dissection, and Generation: Experience, Expertise, and the Practices of Knowing  
**James G. Lennox**  
249

References  
273

General Index  
280

Index of Passages  
282
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**Gregory Salmieri** teaches at Rutgers University and is a philosophy fellow at the Anthem Foundation. He previously held research and teaching positions in philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Boston University. He is editor, together with Allan Gotthelf, of *A Companion to Ayn Rand* (2016) and *Knowing and Coming to Know: Essays on Aristotle’s Epistemology* (forthcoming).
Preface

The majority of the essays collected in this volume originate from papers delivered at the international conference on Aristotle’s *Generation of Animals* that took place in Paris, January 9–11, 2014. The conference was jointly organized in Paris at the Sorbonne University by the late Allan Gotthelf and David Lefebvre under the title “Form and Necessity: On Aristotle’s *Generation of Animals*.” The conference coincided with the publication of a new French translation of *Generation of Animals* by David Lefebvre. Since Allan Gotthelf was also preparing a new English translation of *Generation of Animals* and at the same time writing, together with Andrea Falcon, an article on the unity and argument of this treatise, it was decided to invite scholars who had been working on *Generation of Animals* in Europe and North America to take stock of the most significant results achieved with this important yet difficult text.

The original plan was for Allan Gotthelf and David Lefebvre to publish a volume of essays after the conference. From the very beginning, the idea was not to publish the proceedings of the conference but rather to collect in a volume some of the most interesting recent work on *Generation of Animals*, including some of the work presented at the Paris conference. When it became clear that Allan Gotthelf would not be able to complete this editorial project, the latter asked Andrea Falcon to collaborate with David Lefebvre to prepare the volume. We have selected thirteen essays, all appearing here for the first time. Two have evolved from papers presented at a fifth Pittsburgh-London (Ontario) workshop on Aristotle’s *Generation of Animals* organized by Allan Gotthelf and Devin Henry at the University of Western Ontario in May 2010. One is the essay on the unity and argument of Aristotle’s *Generation of Animals* that Allan Gotthelf was completing with the help of Andrea Falcon at the time of his death. This essay, which contains the most significant results of Allan Gotthelf’s

1 This translation is published in Aristotle, *Œuvres complètes* (Flammarion, Paris 2014).
Preface

lifetime philosophical engagement with this work, opens the volume. The other is by Mariska Leunissen on the order and method adopted in the second book of *Generation of Animals*. Ten essays originate from papers delivered at the Paris conference. To these essays, we have added one by Sophia Connell on Aristotle’s explanation of deformity, which is a response to the most recent scholarly work on this topic.

We would like to thank Zoli Filotas who has translated Chapter 2 from French and revised the English of the Introduction and Chapter 1.

We are grateful to Michael Sharp and Hilary Gaskin for offering to publish the volume as a Cambridge Critical Guide.

The volume is dedicated to Allan Gotthelf, who was a friend, a mentor, and an example for most of the scholars involved in this project.
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APo</td>
<td>Analytica posteriora</td>
<td>Posterior Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APr</td>
<td>Analytica priora</td>
<td>Prior Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>De anima</td>
<td>On the Soul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>De caelo</td>
<td>On the Heavens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>De generatione animalium</td>
<td>Generation of Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td>De generatione et corruptione</td>
<td>Generation and Corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HA</td>
<td>De historia animalium</td>
<td>History of Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>De inessu animalium</td>
<td>On the Progression of Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juv.</td>
<td>De juventute et senectute</td>
<td>On Youth and Old Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long.</td>
<td>De longitudine et brevitate vitae</td>
<td>On the Length and Shortness of Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>De motu animalium</td>
<td>On the Motion of Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta.</td>
<td>Metaphysica</td>
<td>Metaphysics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mete.</td>
<td>Meteorologica</td>
<td>Meteorology</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Ethica nicomachea</td>
<td>Nicomachean Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>De partibus animalium</td>
<td>Parts of Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Physica</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pol.</td>
<td>Politica</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prob.</td>
<td>Problemeta</td>
<td>Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resp.</td>
<td>De respiratione</td>
<td>On Respiration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somn.</td>
<td>De somno et vigilia</td>
<td>On Sleep and Waking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>