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This book examines Aristotle's metaphysics and his account of nature, stressing the ways in which his desire to explain observed natural processes shaped his philosophical thought. It departs radically from a tradition of interpretation in which Aristotle is understood to have approached problems with a set of abstract principles in hand – principles derived from critical reflection on the views of his predecessors.

A central example in the book interprets Aristotle's essentialism as deriving from an examination of the kinds of unity that various sorts of things have, and from his account of elemental motion, alteration, transformation, and the growth of organisms. An important conclusion of this argument is that a substance may, under certain circumstances, lack some of its essential attributes.

The book goes on to develop a notion of incomplete substance and explores the connection between Aristotle's concept of nature and its role in scientific explanation. In this way Cohen breaks down the sharp division that many interpreters have chosen to see between Aristotle's natural science and his philosophy.

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# Aristotle on Nature and Incomplete Substance

SHELDON M. COHEN  
*University of Tennessee*



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On the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe:

- to Joseph P. Rivers, for the care with which he supervises the American military cemetery at St. Laurent-sur-Mer, portal of freedom
- to Robert Elmer, Salerno beachmaster, who also served in North Africa, Noumea, at Utah Beach, and in Operation Anvil, and who landed Darby's Rangers at Gella
- to Jacques Vico, president of the Union des combattants volontaires de la Résistance du Calvados
- to my uncles, Irving Schiller, 741st U.S. Tank Battalion, wounded in action, September 1944, in the liberation of Brest, and Maurice Basem, 702d U.S. Tank Destroyer Battalion, wounded in action early June 1944, at an unknown location in Normandy; August 1, 1944, in the liberation of Tessy-sur-Vire; and near Puffendorf, Germany, in the spring of 1945
- and to their comrades in arms who rest in honor and glory in England, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

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S.M.C.