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978-1-107-13630-4 - Aristotle on Female Animals: A Study of the Generation of Animals

Sophia M. Connell

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## ARISTOTLE ON FEMALE ANIMALS

Aristotle's account of female nature has received mostly negative treatment, emphasizing what he says females cannot do. Building on recent research, this book comprehensively revises such readings, setting out the complex and positive role played by the female in Aristotle's thought with a particular focus on the longest surviving treatise on reproduction in the ancient corpus, the *Generation of Animals*. It provides new interpretations of the nature of Aristotle's sexism, his theory of male and female interaction in generation and his account of inherited features. It also discusses a range of more general issues which can and should be re-examined in light of Aristotle's account of female animals: his methodology, hylomorphism, teleology and psychology. *Aristotle on Female Animals* will be valuable to all those interested in Aristotle's philosophy and the history of gender.

SOPHIA M. CONNELL is an Affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge, a Fellow of Selwyn College and a Bye Fellow of Newnham College. She has published articles on Aristotle's biology and Galen and Aristotle on women's bodies.

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ARISTOTLE ON FEMALE ANIMALS

A Study of the *Generation of Animals*

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**SOPHIA M. CONNELL**

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For my mother and my daughters

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**Aristotle's works**

<i>A. Po.</i>	<i>Analytica Posteriora (Posterior Analytics)</i>
<i>A. Pr.</i>	<i>Analytica Priora (Prior Analytics)</i>
<i>Cael.</i>	<i>De Caelo (On the Heavens)</i>
<i>Cat.</i>	<i>Categoriae (Categories)</i>
<i>de An.</i>	<i>de Anima (On the Soul)</i>
<i>Div. Somn.</i>	<i>De Divinatione per Somnum (On Divination by Dreams)</i>
<i>EE</i>	<i>Ethica Eudemia (Eudemean Ethics)</i>
<i>EN</i>	<i>Ethica Nicomachea (Nicomachean Ethics)</i>
<i>GA</i>	<i>De Generatione Animalium (Generation of Animals)</i>
<i>GC</i>	<i>De Generatione et Corruptione (Generation and Corruption)</i>
<i>HA</i>	<i>Historia Animalium (History of Animals)</i>
<i>IA</i>	<i>De Incessu Animalium (Progression of Animals)</i>
<i>Insomn.</i>	<i>De Insomniis (On Dreams)</i>
<i>Juv.</i>	<i>De Juventute et Senectute [De Vita et Morte] (On Youth and Old Age [On Life and Death])</i>
<i>Long.</i>	<i>De Longitudine et Brevitate Vitae (On Length and Shortness of Life)</i>
<i>MM</i>	<i>Magna Moralia</i>
<i>MA</i>	<i>De Motu Animalium (Movement of Animals)</i>
<i>Mem.</i>	<i>De Memoria et Reminiscentia (On Memory and Recollection)</i>
<i>Metaph.</i>	<i>Metaphysica (Metaphysics)</i>
<i>Mete.</i>	<i>Meteorologica (Meteorology)</i>
<i>PA</i>	<i>De Partibus Animalium (Parts of Animals)</i>
<i>Ph.</i>	<i>Physica (Physics)</i>
<i>Poet.</i>	<i>Poetica (Poetics)</i>
<i>Pol.</i>	<i>Politica (Politics)</i>

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<i>Resp.</i>	<i>De Respiratione (On Respiration)</i>
<i>Rh.</i>	<i>Rhetorica (Rhetoric)</i>
<i>Sens.</i>	<i>De Sensu et Sensibilibus (On Sense and Sense Objects)</i>
<i>Somn.</i>	<i>De Somno et Vigilia (On Sleep and Waking)</i>
<i>Top.</i>	<i>Topica (Topics)</i>

**Works by other Greek authors***Hippocrates*

<i>Aër.</i>	<i>Airs, Waters, Places</i>
<i>Aph.</i>	<i>Aphorisms</i>
<i>Carn.</i>	<i>On Fleashes</i>
<i>Cord.</i>	<i>On the Heart</i>
<i>Epid.</i>	<i>Epidemics</i>
<i>Genit.</i>	<i>On Generation</i>
<i>Loc. Hom.</i>	<i>Places in Man</i>
<i>Morb.</i>	<i>On Diseases</i>
<i>Morb. Sacr.</i>	<i>On the Sacred Disease</i>
<i>Mul.</i>	<i>On Diseases of Women</i>
<i>Nat. Hom.</i>	<i>On the Nature of Man</i>
<i>Nat. Puer.</i>	<i>On the Nature of the Child</i>
<i>Steril.</i>	<i>On Sterility</i>
<i>Vict.</i>	<i>On Regimen</i>

*Galen [Claudius]*

<i>Sem.</i>	<i>De Semine (On Semen)</i>
<i>UP</i>	<i>De Usu Partium (On the Usefulness of the Parts of the Body)</i>
<i>Ut. Diss.</i>	<i>De Uteri Dissectione (On the Anatomy of the Uterus)</i>

*Hesiod*

<i>Theog.</i>	<i>Theogony</i>
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## List of abbreviations

*Plato**Phlb.* *Philebus**Rep.* *Republic**Ti.* *Timaeus**Pseudo-Aristotle**Mu.* *De Mundo (On the Universe)**Pr.* *Problemata (Problems)**Spir.* *De Spiritu (On Breath)**Theophrastus**CP* *De Causis Plantarum (On the Causes of Plants)**HP* *Historia Plantarum (Enquiry into Plants)**Metaph.* *Metaphysics***Other abbreviations**DK H. Diels and W. Kranz (1903) *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker* (Berlin, Weidmann).KJV The Holy Bible (1987) *Authorized King James Version: Containing the Old and New Testaments* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).L Hippocrates (1839–61) *Oeuvres Completes d'Hippocrate*, 10 vols., ed., trans. and comm. E. Littré (Paris: Librairie de l'Academie Royale de Medicine).LSJ H. G. Liddell, R. Scott and H. S. Jones (1996) *A Greek-English Lexicon*, 5th edn. with supple (Oxford University Press).

References to Aristotle's texts follow Bekker pagination and Peck's emendations, unless otherwise specified

References to Plato's texts follow Stephanus pagination.

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