Aristotle’s voluminous writings on animals have often been marginalized in the history of philosophy. Providing the first full-length comprehensive account of Aristotle’s biology, its background, content, and influence, this Companion situates his study of living nature within his broader philosophy and theology and differentiates it from other medical and philosophical theories. An overview of empiricism in Aristotle’s Historia Animalium is followed by an account of the general methodology recommended in the Parts of Animals. An account of the importance of Aristotle’s teleological perspective and the fundamental metaphysics of biological entities provides a basis for understanding living capacities, such as nutrition, reproduction, perception, and self-motion, in his philosophy. The importance of Aristotle’s zoology to both his ethics and political philosophy is highlighted. The volume explores in detail the changing interpretations and influences of Aristotle’s biological works from antiquity to modern philosophy of science. It is essential for both students and scholars.

SOPHIA M. CONNELL is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London. She is the author of Aristotle on Female Animals: A Study of the Generation of Animals (Cambridge, 2016), and has published papers on Aristotle’s biology, ancient political theory and virtue ethics. She represents Ancient Philosophy on the Committee of the British Society for the History of Philosophy and is Associate Editor of the British Journal for the History of Philosophy.
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Contributors

Hynek Bartoš is Associate Professor at Charles University Prague, Faculty of Humanities. He has published on ancient Greek philosophy and medicine, including papers in Ancient Philosophy, Apeiron, Classical Quarterly, and Rhizai, and a book Philosophy and Dietetics in the Hippocratic on Regimen: A Delicate Balance of Health (Brill, 2015). He coedited (with S. Fischerová) a series of the first Czech translations with commentaries of the Hippocratic treatises and (with C. G. King) a volume Heat, Pneuma and Soul in Ancient Philosophy and Medicine (Cambridge, 2020).

Elena Cagnoli Fiecon is Lecturer in Ancient Philosophy at University College London. She works primarily on Aristotle’s ethics, philosophy of mind, and biology, but she has broad interests in other ancient traditions and their links with contemporary views. She has published papers on musical education in the Politics, akrasia in the Nicomachean Ethics, and the matter of virtues in Aristotle’s ethics and biology.

Sophia M. Connell is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, Birkbeck College, University of London. She was formerly a Fellow and Admissions Tutor at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and a Bye-Fellow at Newnham College, Cambridge. She has written articles on Aristotelian biology, Galen and Aristotle on sex difference, and Plato’s political philosophy, and a book entitled Aristotle on Female Animals: A Study in the Generation of Animals (Cambridge, 2016). She is currently working on a translation of and philosophical commentary on Aristotle’s Generation of Animals I–5 for the Clarendon Aristotle series (Oxford).

Klaus Corcilius is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tübingen. He is author of a book and several articles on Aristotle’s theory of desire, animal motion, and human action. Currently he is
working on a commentary and translation of Aristotle’s De Motu Animalium. Recent publications include a volume coedited with Dominik Perler, Partitioning of the Soul in Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy (De Gruyter, 2014).

DAVID DEPEW is Emeritus Professor of Communication Studies and POROI (Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry) at the University of Iowa. He was previously Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Fullerton. Much of his work is on the philosophy, history, and rhetoric of evolutionary biology. He also writes on the relation between biological and political theories in ancient and modern biology. He is co-author, with Bruce H. Weber, of Darwinism Evolving: Systems Dynamics and the Genealogy of Natural Selection (MIT Press, 1995), with Marjorie Grene, of Philosophy of Biology: An Episodic History (Cambridge, 2004) and, with J. P. Jackson Jr., of Darwinism, Democracy and Race: American Anthropology and Evolutionary Biology in the Twentieth Century (Routledge, 2017).

ANDREA FALCON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University, Montreal. He is a specialist in Aristotle and the Aristotelian tradition in antiquity and beyond. He is the author of Corpi e Movimenti. Il De caelo di Aristotele e la Sua Fortuna nel Mondo Antico (Bibliopolis, 2001), Aristotle and the Science of Nature: Unity without Uniformity (Cambridge, 2005), and Aristotelianism in the First Century BCE: Xenarchus of Seleucia (Cambridge, 2011). He is the editor of Brill’s Companion to the Reception of Aristotle in Antiquity (Brill, 2016).

CYNTHIA FREELAND is Moores Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of Houston. From 2015 to 2017 she served as president of the American Society for Aesthetics. Her publications include work on ancient philosophy and feminist theory as well as aesthetics. Her most recent book is Portraits and Persons (Oxford, 2010). She is editor of Feminist Interpretations of Aristotle (Penn State, 1998) and author of articles on Aristotle’s biology, teleology, philosophy of science, physics, and ethics.

JESSICA GELBER is Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the University of Toronto. Her current projects focus on the relation between Aristotle’s conception of science and his metaphysics, and on questions about the nature of causation and explanation. She has
written articles on Aristotle’s natural history, teleology, metaphysics, and embryology.

**Myrto Hatzimichali** is University Lecturer in Classics at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Homerton College. Her research interests center on intellectual and cultural history, and especially on the ways in which literary and philosophical texts were transmitted, received, and professionally studied in the Hellenistic and Early Imperial periods. She is the author of *Potamo of Alexandria and the Emergence of Eclecticism in Late Hellenistic Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2011) and has contributed chapters to volumes on Antiochus of Ascalon, philosophy in the first century BC, ancient libraries and the history of encyclopedism.

**Devin Henry** is Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario. He is the author of several articles on Aristotle’s philosophy of science (including classification, teleology, heredity, and sexism) as well as on Plato’s late epistemology. He is the author of a book entitled *Aristotle on Matter, Form and Moving Causes: The Hylomorphic Theory of Substantial Generation* (Cambridge, 2019) and is also the co-editor of *Bridging the Gap Between Aristotle’s Science and Ethics* (Cambridge, 2015).

**Monte Ransome Johnson** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of *Aristotle on Teleology* (Oxford, 2005) and of several essays on ancient philosophy and science, including contributions to *The Cambridge Companion to Lucretius* (Cambridge, 2007) and *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics* (Cambridge, 2014). He is currently working on a reconstruction of Aristotle’s lost work the *Protrepticus*.

**R. A. H. King** is Chair for the History of Philosophy, Institute for Philosophy, University of Berne, Switzerland, and has also taught at Munich and Glasgow. He has published on Aristotle’s *Parva Naturalia* (*Aristotle on Life and Death*, Duckworth, 2001), *Aristotle’s De Memoria*, with German translation and commentary (*Akademie Verlag*, 2007), and its reception in Neo-Platonism (*Aristotle and Plotinus on Memory*, de Gruyter, 2009). He is also interested in the Platonic background to Aristotle’s theories of living things.

**James G. Lennox** is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh and is a leading expert on Aristotle’s biology.
He has also published widely on Darwin and Darwinism. As well as being editor of *Philosophical Issues in Aristotle’s Biology* (Cambridge, 1987), he has written numerous articles on Aristotle’s biology, philosophy of biology, methodology, and ethics, a selection of which can be found in his *Aristotle’s Philosophy of Biology* (Cambridge, 2001). He is the author of a translation and commentary, *Aristotle on the Parts of Animals* I–IV (Oxford, 2001), and co-editor of *Concepts, Theories, and Rationality in the Biological Sciences* (Pittsburgh and Konstanz, 1995) and *Self-Motion from Aristotle to Newton* (Princeton, 1995).

Mariska Leunissen is Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of *Teleology and Explanation in Aristotle’s Science of Nature* (Cambridge, 2010), editor of *Aristotle’s Physics, A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2015), and *From Natural Character to Moral Virtue in Aristotle* (Oxford, 2017), and has written articles on Aristotle’s philosophy of science, biology, and the relationship between his political and natural science.

Karel Thein is Professor in Ancient and Early Modern Philosophy at Charles University in Prague. He has written a number of articles on Plato and Aristotle, several books in Czech including a comprehensive treatment of Aristotle’s understanding of human nature (*Aristotle on Human Nature. From Mind to Anatomy*, Filosofia, 2017), and a book on time in Plato’s *Republic* and the *Timaeus* (Vrin, 2001). Besides ancient philosophy, his research concerns the interactions between philosophy and aesthetics. In this area, he is currently working on mimesis and imagination, including a book on ekphrasis and the ancient descriptions of shields.

Denis Walsh is Professor in the Department of Philosophy, the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto. He received a PhD in Biology from McGill University, and a PhD in Philosophy from King’s College London. He is author of *Organisms, Agency and Evolution* (Cambridge, 2015).

Charlotte Witt is Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at the University of New Hampshire. She is the author of *Substance and Essence in Aristotle* (Cornell, 1994) and *Ways of Being: Potentiality and Actuality in Aristotle’s Metaphysics* (Cornell, 2003) as well as of numerous articles on Aristotle, metaphysics, and feminist metaphysics.
Abbreviations

Aristotle’s Biological and Related Works in the Corpus Aristotelicum


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek Title</th>
<th>Latin Title</th>
<th>English Title</th>
<th>Abbr.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peri Psuchês</td>
<td>De Anima</td>
<td>On the Soul</td>
<td>De an.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following works are collectively referred to as the Parva Naturalia (“Small natural treatises”):

- Peri Aisthēseis
- De Sensu
- and Sense-Objects
- Sens.
- kai Aisthētòn
- et Sensibilibus
- De Anima
- Mem.
- Peri Mnēmês
- De Memoria
- On Memory
- Mem.
- kai Anamnēseis
- et Reminiscencia
- Recollection
- Somn.
- Peri Hupnou
- De Somno
- On Sleep
- Somn.
- kai Egrēgorseîs
- et Vigilia
- On Being Awake
- Insomn.
- Peri Eunapnìon
- De Insomniis
- On Dreams
- Div. Somn.
- Peri tis Kat’
- De Divinatione
- On Divination
- Div. Somn.
- Upon Mantikê
- per Somnum
- in Sleep
- Long.
- Peri Makrobiotêtos
- De Longudine
- On Length and
- Juv.
- kai Brachubiotêtos
- et Brevitate Vitae
- Shortness of Life
- and Old Age,
- Resp.
- Peri Neotêtos
- De Juventute
- On Youth
- Resp.
- kai Gêrôs
- et Senectute
- On Life
- Resp.
- Peri Zôês
- De Vita
- and Death
- Resp.
- kai Thanatou
- et Morte
- Resp.
- Peri Anapnoês
- De Respiratione
- Resp.

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List of Abbreviations

The following works are commonly referred to as Aristotle’s “zoological works”:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Greek Title</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tôn Peri ta Zôia</td>
<td>Historia Animalium</td>
<td>History of Animals</td>
<td>HA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri Zôiôn</td>
<td>De Partibus</td>
<td>Of Animals</td>
<td>PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mòriôn</td>
<td>Animalium</td>
<td>On the Motion of Animals</td>
<td>MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri Zôiôn</td>
<td>De Motu Animalium</td>
<td>Of Animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kînêbôs</td>
<td>Animalium</td>
<td>On the Progression of Animals</td>
<td>IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri Poreias</td>
<td>De Incesso</td>
<td>Of Animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zôiôn</td>
<td>Animalium</td>
<td>On the Generation of Animals</td>
<td>GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri Zôiôn</td>
<td>De Generatione</td>
<td>Of Animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesêôs</td>
<td>Animalium</td>
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</table>

Aristotle’s Other Works

- A. Po. Analytica Posteriora (Posterior Analytics)
- A. Pr. Analytica Priora (Prior Analytics)
- Cael. De Caelo (On the Heavens)
- Cat. Categoriae (Categories)
- EE Ethica Eudemia (Eudemian Ethics)
- EN Ethica Nicomachea (Nicomachean Ethics)
- GC De Generatione et Corruptione (Generation and Corruption)
- MM Magna Moralia
- Metaph. Metaphysica (Metaphysics)
- Mete. Meteorologica (Meteorology)
- Ph. Physica (Physics)
- Poet. Poetica (Poetics)
- Pol. Politica (Politics)
- Rh. Rhetorica (Rhetoric)
- Top. Topica (Topics)

Works by Other Greek Authors

Aelian

NA De Natura Animalium (On the Nature of Animals)
List of Abbreviations

Alexander

In Mete. In Metereologica (On the Meteorology)
De An. De Anima (On the Soul)

Apollonius

Mirab. Mirabilia (Marvels)

Apuleius

Apol. Apologia (Apology)

Athenaeus

Deipn. Deipnosophistae (Scholars at the Dinner Table)

Cicero

DND De Natura Deorum (On the Nature of the Gods)

Diodorus Siculus (Diod.)

Hist. Bibliotheca Historica (Library of History)

Diogenes Laertius (D.L.)

D.L. Vitae Philosophorum (Lives of Eminent Philosophers)
List of Abbreviations

Galen

De Causis Cont. De Causis Contentivis (On Sustaining Causes)
De Libr. Propr. De Libris Propriis (On My Own Books)
De Sem. De Semine (On Semen)
Def. Med. Definitiones Medicæ (Medical Definitions)
Diff. Puls. De Pulsuum Differentiis (On the Different Kinds of Pulse)

Hipp. Elem. De Elementis ex Hippocratis Sententia (On the Elements according to Hippocrates)
PHP De Placitis Hippocratis et Platonis (On the Doctrines of Hippocrates and Plato)
UP De Usu Partium (On the Usefulness of the Parts of the Body)

Hippocrates

Aph. Aphorismi (Aphorisms)
Carn. De Carnibus (On Fleshes)
Cord. De Corde (On the Heart)
Epid. Epidemiae (Epidemics)
Flat. De Flatibus (On Winds)
Genit. De Genitura (On Generation)
Loc. Hom. De Locis in Homine (On Places in Man)
Morb. De Morbis (On Diseases)
Morb. Sacr. De Morbo Sacro (On the Sacred Disease)
Mul. De Mulierum Affectibus (On Diseases of Women)
Nat. Hom. De Natura Hominis (On the Nature of Man)
Nat. Ois. De Osiun Natura (On the Nature of Bones)
Nat. Puer. De Natura Pueri (On the Nature of the Child)
Steril. De Sterilitate (On Sterility)
Vict. De Victu (On Regimen)
VM De Vetere Medicina (On Ancient Medicine)
List of Abbreviations

Iamblichus

DCMS De Communi Mathematica Scientia (On the Common Mathematical Science)
Protr. Protrepticus

Lucretius

DRN De Rerum Natura (On the Nature of Things)

Photius

Bibl. Bibliotheca

Plato

Phdr. Phaedrus
Prot. Protagoras
Lgg. Leges (Laws)
Symp. Symposium
Tim. Timaeus

Plutarch

De soll. an. De Sollertia Animalium (On Whether Land or Sea Animals are Cleverer)
Quaest. Conv. Quaestiones Convivales (Symptotic Questions)
Sulla Sulla (Life of Sulla)
### List of Abbreviations

**Proclus**

*In Tim.*  
In *Timaeus* (On the *Timaeus*)

**Simplicius**

*In Cat.*  
In *Aristotelis Categorias* (On Aristotle’s *Categories*)

**Strabo**

*Geo.*  
*Geographica* (Geography)

**Themistius**

*In De an.*  
In *Libros Aristotelis De Anima* (On Aristotle On the *Soul*)

**Theophrastus**

*CP*  
*De Causis Plantarum* (On the Causes of Plants)

*HP*  
*De Historia Plantarum* (Enquiry into Plants)

**Other Abbreviations**

An. Lond.

*Anonymus Londinensis* (Anonymous of London)

Berlin: Weidmann