

ARISTOTLE ON MATTER, FORM, AND MOVING CAUSES

This book examines an important area of Aristotle's philosophy: the generation of substances. While other changes presuppose the existence of a substance (Socrates grows taller), substantial generation results in something genuinely new that did not exist before (Socrates himself). The central argument of this book is that Aristotle defends a 'hylomorphic' model of substantial generation. In its most complete formulation, this model says that substantial generation involves three principles: (1) matter, which is the subject from which the change proceeds; (2) form, which is the end towards which the process advances; and (3) an efficient cause, which directs the process towards that form. By examining the development of this model across Aristotle's works, Devin Henry seeks to deepen our grasp of how the doctrine of hylomorphism – understood as a blueprint for thinking about the world – informs our understanding of the process by which new substances come into being.

DEVIN HENRY is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. He is co-editor of *Bridging the Gap between Aristotle's Science and Ethics* (with Karen M. Nielsen, Cambridge, 2015) and has published many articles on ancient Greek philosophy.

ARISTOTLE ON MATTER,
FORM, AND MOVING
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The Hylomorphic Theory of Substantial Generation

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-47557-0 — Aristotle on Matter, Form, and Moving Causes
 Devin Henry
 Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108475570
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108646680

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First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Henry, Devin, 1973– author.

TITLE: Aristotle on matter, form, and moving causes : the hylomorphic theory of substantial generation / Devin Henry.

DESCRIPTION: First. | New York : Cambridge University Press, 2019. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019042624 (print) | LCCN 2019042625 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108475570 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108646680 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Aristotle. | Substance (Philosophy) | Matter. | Hylomorphism.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC B485 .H383 2019 (print) | LCC B485 (ebook) | DDC 110.92–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019042624>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019042625>

ISBN 978-1-108-47557-0 Hardback

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*For Christine, whose ousia made this book possible.
And for Evelyn and Jackson, whose genesis almost made it
impossible.*

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Preface and Acknowledgements

There are a number of people that I need to thank for helping me bring this project to completion. First and foremost, I would like to thank my partner, Christine Sprengler, whose love, support, and ongoing inspiration made it possible for me to write this book. I am forever grateful for all she has done. On the academic side, I would like to express my gratitude to Mariska Leunissen, James Lennox, Michael Ferejohn, Mary Louise Gill, Jessica Gelber, Emily Kress, Adam Woodcox, and others who have commented on various chapters in one way or another. I am especially grateful to Sophia Connell, with whom I have had many correspondences. Her extensive comments on the manuscript ultimately helped me pull all of the material together into a more coherent argument. Her input had a profound effect on the final structure of the book. I am also indebted to Cecilia Li for her exceptional work preparing the subject index for the book. Finally, I would like to thank my two young children, Evelyn and Jackson, for choosing my cover image. I will always encourage your love of spiders.

Although I have discussed many of the themes in this book elsewhere, the present work is not just a collection of my earlier papers. Rather, it builds on my previous work and integrates it into a more comprehensive and unified picture of Aristotle's theory of substantial generation that not only goes beyond what I have said in the past but in some cases corrects it. The result is a more panoptic view of the terrain that one does not get from reading those individual papers. In what follows I attempt to walk the line between the Scylla of assuming too much familiarity with the secondary literature and the Charybdis of ignoring the work that has already been done. The former risks an account that is inaccessible and exclusionary, while the latter risks one that floats free of the relevant debates and controversies. Though I engage with the important literature throughout this book, I do so

in a way that does not assume the reader is an expert in the various positions discussed therein. What follows thus aims to be as accessible as possible for a general audience with a basic understanding of the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle while at the same time acknowledging the exceptional work of my predecessors.

Abbreviations of Aristotle's Works

<i>APo.</i>	<i>Analytica posteriora (Posterior Analytics)</i>
<i>DC</i>	<i>De caelo (On the Heavens)</i>
<i>DA</i>	<i>De anima (On the Soul)</i>
<i>De Juv.</i>	<i>De juventute et senectute, De vita et morte (On Youth and Old Age, On Life and Death)</i>
<i>NE</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>MA</i>	<i>De motu animalium (Movement of Animals)</i>
<i>Metaph.</i>	<i>Metaphysica (Metaphysics)</i>
<i>Meteor.</i>	<i>Meteorologica (Meteorology)</i>
<i>PA</i>	<i>Partibus animalium (Parts of Animals)</i>
<i>Ph.</i>	<i>Physica (Physics)</i>

All references to Aristotle's text follow Bekker pagination.
 All references to Plato's text follow Stephanus pagination.
 All translations are my own, unless otherwise specified.