

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SCIENCE OF LIVING BEINGS

Scholars have paid ample attention to Aristotle's works on animals. By contrast, they have paid little or no attention to Theophrastus's writings on plants. That is unfortunate because there was a shared research project in the early Peripatos that amounted to a systematic, and theoretically motivated, study of perishable living beings (animals and plants). This is the first sustained attempt to explore how Aristotle and Theophrastus envisioned this study, with attention focused primarily on its deep structure. That entails giving full consideration to a few transitional passages where Aristotle and Theophrastus offer their own description of what they are trying to do. What emerges is a novel, sophisticated, and largely idiosyncratic approach to the topic of life.

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Aristotle and Theophrastus on Animals and Plants

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**Funded by
the European Union**



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, 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

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009426343

DOI: [10.1017/9781009426374](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009426374)

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009426374](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009426374)

First published 2024

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Falcon, Andrea, author.

TITLE: The architecture of the science of living beings : Aristotle and Theophrastus on animals and
plants / Andrea Falcon.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2024. | Includes
bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024001604 | ISBN 9781009426343 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009426350
(paperback) | ISBN 9781009426374 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Aristotle – Criticism and interpretation. | Theophrastus – Criticism and
interpretation. | Biology – History. | Science, Ancient.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC B485 .F26 2024 | DDC 128–dc23/eng/20240414

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2024001604>

ISBN 978-1-009-42634-3 Hardback

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