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

ANDREA FALCON

Concordia University and University of Milan

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