

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962890503321
Autore	Mayhew Robert
Titolo	The female in Aristotle's biology : reason or rationalization / / Robert Mayhew
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2004
ISBN	9786612932847 9781282932845 1282932845 9780226512020 0226512029
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (149 p.)
Disciplina	305.4
Soggetti	Misogyny Women
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 119-124) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- One. Aristotle and "Ideology" -- Two. Entomology -- Three. Embryology -- Four. Eunuchs and Women -- Five. Anatomy -- Six. The Softer and Less Spirited Sex -- Seven. Aristotle on Females: An Assessment of the Biology -- References -- Index Locorum -- Index of Names -- General Index
Sommario/riassunto	While Aristotle's writings on biology are considered to be among his best, the comments he makes about females in these works are widely regarded as the nadir of his philosophical oeuvre. Among many claims, Aristotle is said to have declared that females contribute nothing substantial to generation; that they have fewer teeth than males; that they are less spirited than males; and that woman are analogous to eunuchs. In The Female in Aristotle's Biology, Robert Mayhew aims not to defend Aristotle's ideas about females but to defend Aristotle against the common charge that his writings on female species were motivated by ideological bias. Mayhew points out that the tools of modern science and scientific experimentation were not available to the Greeks during Aristotle's time and that, consequently, Aristotle had

relied not only on empirical observations when writing about living organisms but also on a fair amount of speculation. Further, he argues that Aristotle's remarks about females in his biological writings did not tend to promote the inferior status of ancient Greek women. Written with passion and precision, *The Female in Aristotle's Biology* will be of enormous value to students of philosophy, the history of science, and classical literature.

---