ARISTOTLE ON THE NATURE AND Causes of Perception

In this book Robert Roreitner offers a fresh interpretation of Aristotle's philosophically intriguing answers to what the nature of perception is, how it can be explained, and how perception is distinguished from mere appearance. He argues that for Aristotle, perception is a complete passive activity, and explains why this notion merely appears self-contradictory to us. He shows how Aristotle succeeds in integrating causal, qualitative, and relational aspects of perception, and explains why he is neither a 'spiritualist' nor a 'materialist'. He presses and resolves an unappreciated dilemma for Aristotle's hylomorphic account of perception and the role of the soul therein. This rich study shows that although Aristotle's understanding of perception may be in many respects outmoded, its core insights remain philosophically engaging. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

ROBERT ROREITNER is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Charles University, Prague. He is a co-author of *Aristotle on the Essence of Human Thought* (2024).

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. IP address: 3.132.215.146, on 03 May 2025 at 22:22:38, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009533829

ARISTOTLE ON THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF PERCEPTION

ROBERT ROREITNER

Charles University, Prague



Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. IP address: 3.132.215.146, on 03 May 2025 at 22:22:38, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009533829



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.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009533812

DOI: 10.1017/9781009533829

© Robert Roreitner 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009533829 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this license visit https://creativecommons .org/licenses/by-nc/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009533829

First published 2025

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

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data NAMES: Roreitner, Robert, author. TITLE: Aristotle on the nature and causes of perception / Robert Roreitner, Charles University, Prague. Other titles: Unmoved causes of receptivity

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press, [2024] | Revision of author's thesis (PhD, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2018) titled: The unmoved causes of receptivity. | Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024048382 (print) | LCCN 2024048383 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009533812

(hardback) | ISBN 9781009533836 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009533829 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Aristotle. | Perception (Philosophy)

CLASSIFICATION: LCC B491.P38 R67 2024 (print) | LCC B491.P38 (ebook) |

DDC 185-dc23/eng/20241106

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024048382

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024048383

ISBN 978-I-009-53381-2 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.