

## Abstract

Although Merleau-Ponty did not write a book that would explicitly deal with the philosophy of nature, it is clear – thanks to the published transcripts of lectures at the College de France – that he considered this issue to be very important. A philosophy which in its anthropological and ontological concepts overlooks nature is not able to give, according to Merleau-Ponty, a realistic picture of human existence. If the philosophy of nature is not to be subordinated to metaphysics or exact science, it must be based on thinking about our physical, and therefore perceptual-emotional being in the world. Part of this interest in nature is also an interest in non-human animals who bodily inhabit the natural world and relate to it in their own way, although they may share significant biological and behavioral traits with us. In Merleau-Ponty's philosophy, the phenomenology of not only human corporeality and vitality meets with considerations of the being of nature, and the reflection of certain scientific conceptions meets with the clarification of the philosophical concept of nature.