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*Concept and life between philosophy and science*

The essay reconstructs the research by Georges Canguilhem of a «material a priori» that is immanent in every living being and in which the knowledge of life and its functioning are coincident. If DNA as a code cannot provide such an a priori, in opposition to Canguilhem's 1960's hope, the current research on development genes and on embryogenesis seems to open the question again. For a philosophical interpretation of such a research, some instruments forged in the 1950s by Raymond Ruyer, representing for Canguilhem the model of «biological philosopher», still seem to be valid.