

# Ecological trait differences are associated with gene expression in the primary visual cortex of primates

**Trisha Marie Zintel**

University of Massachusetts Amherst <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7356-0867>

**John J. Ely**

MAEBIOS

**Mary Ann Raghanti**

Kent State University

**William D. Hopkins**

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Michale E Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research

**Patrick R. Hof**

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Friedman Brain Institute

**Chet C. Sherwood**

The George Washington University

**Jason M. Kamilar**

University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Amy L. Bauernfeind**

Washington University in Saint Louis School of Medicine

**Courtney C. Babbitt** (✉ [cbabbitt@bio.umass.edu](mailto:cbabbitt@bio.umass.edu))

---

## Research article

**Keywords:** Brain, evolution, metabolic, phenotype, genomics, visual cortex, gene expression

**Posted Date:** January 14th, 2020

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.2.20778/v1>

**License:**   This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

[Read Full License](#)

---

1 **Ecological trait differences are associated with gene expression in the primary visual cortex of**  
2 **primates**

3  
4 Trisha M. Zintel<sup>1,2</sup>, John J. Ely<sup>3</sup>, Mary Ann Raghanti<sup>4</sup>, William D. Hopkins<sup>5</sup>, Patrick R. Hof<sup>6,7</sup>, Chet C.  
5 Sherwood<sup>8</sup>, Jason M. Kamilar<sup>9,10</sup>, Amy L. Bauernfeind<sup>11,12</sup>, and \*Courtney C. Babbitt<sup>1,2</sup>

6  
7 <sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA;

8 <sup>2</sup>Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA;

9 <sup>3</sup>MAEBIOS, Alamogordo, NM;

10 <sup>4</sup>Department of Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, OH;

11 <sup>5</sup>Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research, The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer  
12 Center, Bastrop, TX;

13 <sup>6</sup>Nash Family Department of Neuroscience and Friedman Brain Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at  
14 Mount Sinai, New York, NY;

15 <sup>7</sup>New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology,

16 <sup>8</sup>Department of Anthropology and Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, The George  
17 Washington University, Washington, DC;

18 <sup>9</sup>Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA;

19 <sup>10</sup>Organismic and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst,  
20 Amherst, MA;

21 <sup>11</sup>Department of Neuroscience, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO;

22 <sup>12</sup>Department of Anthropology, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

23  
24  
25 \*Corresponding author:

26 Courtney C. Babbitt, Ph.D.

27 Dept. of Biology

28 611 North Pleasant St.

29 Amherst, MA, 01003, USA

30 413-545-5574

31 [cbabbitt@bio.umass.edu](mailto:cbabbitt@bio.umass.edu)

51 **ABSTRACT**

52 **Background:** Primate species differ drastically from most other mammals in how they visually perceive  
53 their environments, which is important for foraging, predator avoidance, and detection of social cues.

54 Although it is well established that primates display diversity in color vision and various ecological  
55 specializations, it is not understood how visual system characteristics and ecological adaptations may be  
56 associated with gene expression levels within the primary visual cortex (V1).

57 **Results:** We performed RNA-Seq on V1 tissue samples from 28 individuals, representing 13 species of  
58 anthropoid primates, including hominoids, cercopithecoids, and platyrrhines. We explored trait-dependent  
59 differential expression (DE) by contrasting species with different visual system phenotypes and ecological  
60 traits. Between 4-25% of genes were determined to be differentially expressed in primates that varied in  
61 type of color vision (trichromatic or polymorphic di/trichromatic), habitat use (arboreal or terrestrial),  
62 group size (large or small), and primary diet (frugivorous, folivorous, or omnivorous). DE analyses  
63 revealed that humans and chimpanzees showed the most marked differences between any two species,  
64 despite the fact that they are only separated by 6-8 million years of independent evolution. Pathway  
65 enrichment analyses of DE genes demonstrated that changes in cellular metabolic pathways (e.g.  
66 glycolysis) contribute to altered gene expression in primate V1 more than neuron-specific processes (e.g.  
67 synaptic signaling). The exception to this trend is between human and chimpanzee, which exhibited DE  
68 for a number of processes related to cholinergic and GABAergic synaptic signaling.

69 **Conclusions:** Our data significantly expand the number of primate species for which V1 expression data  
70 exists. These results show a combination of species-specific and trait-dependent differences in the  
71 evolution of gene expression in primate V1. We also show that human-specific changes in brain gene  
72 expression extend to the primary visual cortex in a manner similar to that reported of other brain regions.

73

74

75 **KEYWORDS**

76 Brain, evolution, metabolic, phenotype, genomics, visual cortex, gene expression

77

78

## 79 **BACKGROUND**

80

81 In most mammals, vision is critical for foraging, predator avoidance, and mate recognition [1-5].

82 However, primates are distinguished from other mammals by unique visual traits, including high visual

83 acuity and variation in color perception [2, 5-9]. Primates with forward-facing eyes have high orbital

84 convergence and correspondingly enhanced binocular vision resulting in greater depth perception

85 (stereoscopic vision) and increased visual acuity [10]. Primates also possess a uniquely specialized fovea,

86 a localization of cone receptors in the retina, that allows for greater resolution [11, 12]. Among primates,

87 visual acuity is highest in diurnal haplorrhine species [13-17]. Trichromatic color vision is a hallmark of

88 hominoid and cercopithecoid species, but color vision varies significantly across platyrrhine species as

89 well as within some species that have polymorphic sex-linked di/trichromacy [18].

90 Higher visual acuity and a shift to trichromatic color vision are hypothesized to confer a number

91 of benefits across primate species. High visual acuity has been suggested to be adaptively favorable in

92 relation to diet (i.e. detecting insects) as well as for arboreal species navigating tree limbs [10]. At the

93 level of opsin gene conservation across primates and tree shrews, typical light conditions that require

94 enhanced visual acuity are the same as those in which color vision is favored, representing a putative

95 adaptive link between enhanced acuity and trichromacy [8]. The evolution of a third opsin gene increases

96 the range of detectable wavelengths (especially in the range of red hues) and has been hypothesized to be

97 influenced by foraging and social pressures [19, 20]. The foraging hypothesis stresses the importance of

98 detecting red ripe fruits and young leaves against a green foliage background [1-3, 21, 22]. The social

99 signal hypothesis states that wavelength sensitivity for red hues is important for accurate interpretation of

100 skin color changes indicative of receptivity, sociality, or health [19, 23, 24]. Evidence in a lemur species

101 with mixed populations of trichromats and dichromats showed that there is a group level benefit when at

102 least a single trichromatic individual is present, likely linked to the ability to locate ripe fruit during the  
103 dry season, thus positively influencing fitness [22].

104 The primary visual cortex (V1) is the first cortical region in the visual pathway and where visual  
105 inputs converge from both eyes. Inputs from both eyes that impart binocular vision are critical for  
106 detecting edge orientation, thus playing an important role in depth perception [9, 25]. Increased orbital  
107 convergence allowing for binocular vision correlates with an increase in size in brain regions associated  
108 with visual perception [26]. Neuronal density within V1 of primates is more than twice that of other  
109 mammals, reflecting the importance of vision for primates [9, 10]. There is also known variation in V1  
110 neuronal cytoarchitecture across hominoid species, including molecular differences in cytochrome  
111 oxidase staining in layer 4A [27, 28] and interneuron density [29, 30] as measured by  
112 immunohistochemistry. Taken together, these findings may indicate an adaptive advantage of visual  
113 processes that could differentially influence V1 function in primates. However, we still have little  
114 knowledge about the genetic mechanisms driving V1 variation across species and how this correlates with  
115 differences in visual acuity and perception.

116 Given the high degree of homology between humans and chimpanzees at the nucleotide and  
117 protein levels, King and Wilson [31] hypothesized that the extensive phenotypic differences must be due  
118 to changes in gene expression rather than coding-sequence evolution. Investigations of differential  
119 expression (DE) across primates have indeed demonstrated that *cis*-regulatory changes are critical for  
120 large-scale differences in phenotype [32-36]. Gene expression tends to vary across different bodily  
121 tissues, while different brain regions have region-specific profiles indicative of localized regulation [37-  
122 42]. Enrichments for neuron-specific processes (e.g. synaptic signaling) and metabolism (e.g.  
123 carbohydrate and lipid metabolism) have been reported in human brain gene expression compared to  
124 chimpanzee and rhesus macaque [33-35] and may be indicative of region-specific differences in neural  
125 function.

126 Few investigations of interspecific gene expression have focused on differences in the primate  
127 visual cortex [38, 43-45]. Khaitovich et al. [38] investigated several brain regions, including V1, with the

128 primary focus on determining the extent of region-specific differences in expression between three  
129 primate species (human, chimpanzee, and macaque). These authors found that regions of the cerebral  
130 cortex, including V1, differ significantly from other brain regions, such as the cerebellum, and that the  
131 degree of intraspecific variation in expression between these brain regions was significantly greater in  
132 human than chimpanzee. Furthermore, they reported that in the cerebral cortex of both species, V1 was an  
133 outlier among other regions investigated (dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, anterior cingulate cortex, and  
134 Broca's area) [38]. Another study found coexpression networks specific to V1 in both humans and  
135 chimpanzees and found the greatest degree of interspecific conservation in V1 compared to any other  
136 region investigated [45]. The authors attributed these findings to the sensory nature of V1's function for  
137 which humans and chimpanzees presumably differ very little [45]. A comparison of transcription between  
138 human, macaque, and mouse V1 using microarrays found that primate (human and macaque) V1  
139 expression was conserved in comparison to mouse, suggesting that the conserved genomic profiles of V1  
140 extends beyond primates [43]. These studies represent important initial investigations of V1 gene  
141 expression, however, they investigated few primate species (humans, chimpanzees, rhesus macaques) and  
142 emphasized other brain regions over V1.

143 To understand primate visual system adaptations better at the gene expression level, we used  
144 RNA-Seq to quantify gene expression in V1 of 13 primate species across three major clades (hominoids,  
145 cercopithecoids, and platyrrhines), significantly increasing the number of primates for which V1 gene  
146 expression data exists. This broad phylogenetic sampling of phenotypically diverse primates allowed us  
147 to explore how differences in gene expression were associated with variation in traits that contribute to a  
148 species' visual perception, including differences in species-typical color vision (trichromats vs  
149 polymorphic di/trichromats), and ecological variables such as habitat use (arboreal vs terrestrial), average  
150 group size (large vs small), and typical diet (folivore vs frugivore vs omnivore). We also evaluated the  
151 influence of sex on gene expression in V1. We found significantly differentially expressed genes in V1  
152 when comparing global gene expression based upon extremes in species-typical traits for color vision,  
153 habitat use, group size and diet, but not sex. Pathway enrichment analyses of genes exhibiting differential

154 expression (DE) showed that expression changes correlated with variation in visually-relevant traits as  
155 well as expression differences between species are largely driven by altered metabolic signaling. Human  
156 and chimpanzee V1 expression notably differs from other species, and though they do not differ in the  
157 visual ecological traits investigated here, they are divergent from one another in important neurological  
158 signaling processes.

159

## 160 **RESULTS**

161

162

### 163 **Humans and chimpanzees exhibit the most variation in V1 gene expression.**

164 RNA-Seq was conducted on V1 tissue collected from 28 individuals from 13 primate species,  
165 including hominoids, cercopithecoids, and platyrrhines (Figure 1, SI Table 1; additional details in  
166 Methods). Despite the fact that gene expression does not evolve in the same manner as nucleotide  
167 sequence [46], due to tissue- and cell-type-specificity within an organism, V1 gene expression profiles  
168 overall grouped by species and phylogenetic clade (Figure 2). Interestingly, there was greater variation in  
169 V1 transcriptomes within hominoids than cercopithecoids or platyrrhines, predominantly due to distances  
170 observed among samples representing human and chimpanzee (Figure 2A). Thus, the expression profiles  
171 of other hominoids (orangutan, gorilla, and siamang) were more similar to that of cercopithecoids and  
172 platyrrhines than to human and chimpanzee (Figure 2A). Hierarchical clustering of whole transcriptomes  
173 revealed similar results, with most samples per species clustering generally according to phylogeny  
174 (Figure 2B). The exceptions were for the single representative samples of gorilla, saki monkey, squirrel  
175 monkey, and orangutan. Additionally, the two pig-tailed macaque samples clustered away from the other  
176 cercopithecoid species. These multivariate analyses indicate conservation in the overall expression  
177 profiles of primates with the exception of human and chimpanzee. There were no overt technical factors  
178 influencing the out grouping of human, chimpanzee, or pig-tailed macaque samples (e.g. individual sex or  
179 age, sample hemisphere of origin, RNA or cDNA library quality, read number, alignment percentages, SI  
180 Table 1). Observed human and chimpanzee divergence from other species was consistent with other

181 studies [32, 35, 41, 42] and highlighted that the increased distinctiveness of brain gene expression with  
182 proximity to the human lineage extends to V1.

183           Next, we performed pairwise differential expression (DE) analyses between species to determine  
184 the proportion of genes that were statistically significantly differentially expressed (SI Table 2). There  
185 was a positive correlation between number of genes exhibiting DE and phylogenetic distance (Pearson's  $r$   
186 = 0.6,  $p = 0.0001$ ), demonstrating that the number of genes exhibiting DE increases with phylogenetic  
187 distance (SI Table 2). However, humans exhibit noticeably greater numbers of genes displaying DE when  
188 compared to chimpanzee ( $n = 3,648$ ) and siamang ( $n = 3,846$ ; SI Table 2), despite being relatively closely  
189 related. Notably, chimpanzee and siamang do not exhibit as high a degree of difference from one another  
190 ( $n = 2,771$ ; SI Table 2). This suggested that there is significant difference in V1 expression with  
191 phylogenetic proximity to humans, and not more generally in the hominoid clade. These results  
192 demonstrated that there is a significant degree of DE in V1 across primate species, despite its sensory  
193 function.

194

#### 195 **Metabolic and neuronal signaling are enriched in V1 DE.**

196           To determine what biological processes are enriched in genes displaying DE in V1, we performed  
197 pathway enrichment analyses for Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway terms of  
198 pairwise DE comparisons (Table 2; SI Table 3). To obtain an overall view of global processes enriched in  
199 primate V1 DE, we grouped specific pathways into broad parent KEGG categories for “signaling”,  
200 “immune”, “disease”, “neuron-specific”, “metabolic”, and “other”, generally following the established  
201 hierarchy already present in the KEGG ontology (SI Table 3; for more details on thresholding and  
202 grouping of pathways into parent categories, see Methods). Overall, there was a wide variety of KEGG  
203 pathways enriched in these DE comparisons related to inter- and extracellular signaling processes  
204 associated with growth and development, as well as more specific pathways related to cellular  
205 metabolism (e.g. glycolysis) and neuron-specific signaling (e.g. synaptic signaling; SI Table 3). To assess  
206 whether metabolic and neural processes routinely differ in the gene expression of primate V1, as well as

207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217

what interspecies DE comparisons deviated from that trend, we determined what proportion of all the pathways enriched were metabolic or neuron-specific signaling pathways. On average, metabolic pathways accounted for 23.8% of enrichments while neural pathways accounted for only 7.6% of enrichments (SI Table 3). Similarly, enrichments for metabolism were present in all interspecies DE comparisons (34/34 pairwise species comparisons), while enrichments for neuron-specific processes were present in only 23/34 or 68% of comparisons (SI Table 3). Interestingly, there was a reduction in the proportion of metabolic enrichments observed in the human-chimpanzee DE comparison coinciding with an increase in the number of neuron-specific enrichments (Table 1; SI Table 3). This suggests that altered expression in neural signaling deviates humans and chimpanzees more than any other two species.

**Table 1. Metabolic pathways are most significantly enriched in interspecies DE comparisons with the exception of human-chimpanzee.**

| Interspecies-DE Comparison | KEGG Term                               | KEGG Parent Category  | Genes | Enrichment P-Value | P-Value Rank |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|
| Human - Chimpanzee         | Cholinergic synapse                     | <b>Neuronal (SS)</b>  | 40    | 0.00001            | 1            |
| Human - Chimpanzee         | GABAergic synapse                       | <b>Neuronal (SS)</b>  | 31    | 0.00011            | 4            |
| Human - Siamang            | Neuroactive ligand receptor interaction | <b>Neuronal (GEN)</b> | 75    | 0.00086            | 3            |
| Human - Siamang            | Metabolic pathways                      | Metabolic (GEN)       | 272   | 0.00730            | 9            |
| Human - Baboon             | Metabolic pathways                      | Metabolic (GEN)       | 364   | 0.00001            | 1            |
| Human - Baboon             | Fatty acid metabolism                   | Metabolic (LIP)       | 20    | 0.00558            | 7            |
| Human - Rhesus macaque     | Steroid biosynthesis                    | Metabolic (LIP)       | 11    | 0.00118            | 5            |
| Human - Rhesus macaque     | Purine metabolism                       | Metabolic (NT)        | 55    | 0.00206            | 7            |
| Human - Rhesus macaque     | Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism  | Metabolic (C&V)       | 13    | 0.00465            | 10           |
| Human - Marmoset           | Metabolic pathways                      | Metabolic (GEN)       | 349   | 0.00046            | 3            |
| Human - Marmoset           | Nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism  | Metabolic (C&V)       | 15    | 0.00122            | 6            |
| Human - Spider monkey      | Metabolic pathways                      | Metabolic (GEN)       | 326   | 0.00024            | 1            |
| Human - Spider monkey      | Steroid biosynthesis                    | Metabolic (LIP)       | 11    | 0.00142            | 3            |
| Human - Spider monkey      | Purine metabolism                       | Metabolic (NT)        | 54    | 0.00549            | 7            |

A table of the top-10 most significantly enriched KEGG pathways in interspecies DE comparisons between human and other species, abbreviated to show only metabolic (green) and neuron-specific (purple) pathways. ‘# Genes’ refers to the number of genes exhibiting DE in that pathway. P-value rank refers to the rank of the enrichment within the top 10 for each comparison. Table is sorted by interspecies DE comparison. Abbreviated from SI Table 3. Neuronal pathways are bolded. Abbreviations: SS – synaptic signaling; GEN – general; LIP – lipid; NT – nucleotide; C&V – cofactor & vitamin.

218           Synaptic signaling pathways included in the neuron-specific parent group of enriched pathways  
219 included glutamatergic, cholinergic, serotonergic, and GABAergic synaptic signaling as well as “synaptic  
220 vesicle cycling” and “long-term potentiation” (SI Table 3). Other neuron-specific KEGG pathways that  
221 were enriched included axon guidance, neurotrophin signaling, and oxytocin signaling (SI Table 3). All  
222 eight DE comparisons of chimpanzee to other species had higher proportions of neuron-specific pathway  
223 enrichments of any interspecies DE comparison (SI Table 3). The DE comparison between human and  
224 chimpanzee had the most neuron-specific enrichments of any interspecies DE comparison (n =12; SI  
225 Table 3), including cholinergic and GABAergic synapse among the top ten most significantly enriched  
226 pathways (p < 0.0001; Table 1). In contrast, there were no neuron-specific pathways enriched in the top  
227 ten KEGG pathways for any other human interspecies DE comparisons (except neuroactive ligand  
228 receptor interaction in the DE comparison between human and siamang; Table 1). These results highlight  
229 that differences in neuron-specific processes in the V1 are not common across all primates but are more  
230 prominent with proximity to human, and most notably between human and chimpanzee.

231           The V1 region is highly specialized in cytoarchitecture and structure [9], and previous studies  
232 have determined that many of the V1-specific differences in gene expression between species are for  
233 genes involved in determining this structure [43]. Therefore, in addition to KEGG pathway enrichments,  
234 we conducted pathway enrichment analyses for Gene Ontology (GO) cellular components (CC) for  
235 pairwise DE comparisons to determine if there were differences in primate V1 related to specific neuron  
236 cellular parts. In many interspecific comparisons, including, but not limited to human vs. chimpanzee,  
237 there were several GO CC enrichments related to plasma membrane-associated complexes of known  
238 importance for intercellular signaling in the brain, including ATP-coupled ion channels and various  
239 neurotransmitter plasma membrane receptors and intermembrane transporters “clathrin-sculpted  
240 glutamate transport vesicle membrane”, “ionotropic glutamate receptor complex”, and “ciliary  
241 neurotrophic factor receptor complex” (SI Table 4). There were also enrichments for GO CC terms for  
242 specialized cell projections that characterize neural cells, including components of dendrites (e.g.  
243 dendritic branch point) and types of axons (“C fiber”), as well as for synapse parts and neurofilaments (SI

244 Table 4). Interestingly, DE comparisons between human and chimpanzee and other species are the only  
245 interspecies DE comparisons enriched for dendrite cellular parts. Similarly, only chimpanzee DE  
246 comparisons are enriched for axon cellular parts (SI Table 4). Enrichments for GO cellular components  
247 corroborate KEGG pathway enrichments and further show that neural signaling complexes critical for  
248 neurological signaling and structure, such as plasma membrane associated channels, dendrites, and axons,  
249 differ among primate V1.

250 To determine how metabolic gene expression differed from global gene expression in primate V1,  
251 we subset our expression matrix to include only genes involved in metabolic KEGG pathways (n = 1039,  
252 Figure 3). The heatmap generated by clustering species based on distance between expression values  
253 indicated that expression profiles of metabolic genes result in clustering of species according to clades.  
254 (Figure 3). That is, all platyrrhines, hominoids, and cercopithecoids grouped together with no overt  
255 pattern in the metabolic KEGG pathways to which the genes belong (bottom color-coded bar, Figure 3).  
256 This demonstrated that, while there were significant differences in metabolic gene expression in primate  
257 V1, species-specific metabolic patterns still contained substantial phylogenetic signal. To elucidate what  
258 metabolic processes distinguished each clade, we identified which pathways demonstrated DE between  
259 species of different clades, but not between species belonging to the same clade. Carbohydrate  
260 metabolism appears to be the most distinguishing set of metabolic pathways between clades. Hominoids  
261 differ from platyrrhines in citrate (TCA) cycle gene expression and differ from both cercopithecoids and  
262 platyrrhines for glyoxylate and decarboxylate metabolism (SI Table 3). In contrast, platyrrhines differ  
263 from both cercopithecoids and hominoids for amino sugar metabolism and glycolysis/gluconeogenesis  
264 gene expression (SI Table 3). One noticeable exception of a carbohydrate metabolic pathway that differed  
265 consistently between species' comparisons of all three cross-clade combinations but never between two  
266 species of the same clade was fructose and mannose metabolism, which displayed DE between 13  
267 interspecies comparisons, including six comparisons of cercopithecoids to platyrrhines, five comparisons  
268 of hominoids to cercopithecoids, and two comparisons of hominoids to platyrrhines (SI Table 3). Taken  
269 together, these results show that first, metabolic changes in primate V1 are common across primate

270 species in a manner consistent with phylogeny and second, that the metabolic gene expression differences  
 271 involved are primarily related to carbohydrate metabolism. In summary, variation in primate V1 gene  
 272 expression is not limited to neural signaling processes but seems to be driven to a large extent by altered  
 273 metabolic signaling, although neural signaling appears to contribute more to differences in expression  
 274 with proximity to humans.

275

276 **Visual cortex DE is correlated with differences in color vision, group size, diet, and habitat use.**

277 We leveraged the wealth of phenotypic and behavioral data available for the sampled primate species to  
 278 help understand correlations between V1 gene expression and variation in species-typical color vision,  
 279 habitat use, diet, group size, and individual differences in sex (summarized in Figure 1; details in Methods  
 280 and SI Table 1) [4, 10, 47-50]. These phenotype-DE comparisons were conducted by grouping all  
 281 samples according to the species-typical state of their color visual system (trichromats or polymorphic  
 282 di/trichromats), habitat use (primarily arboreal or terrestrial), generalized diet (primarily frugivorous,  
 283 folivorous, or omnivorous), and group size (primarily living in small or large groups) and determining  
 284 genes exhibiting DE between the phenotype-extremes. We reasoned that this would be a conservative  
 285 estimate of differential expression, because grouping such  
 286 disparate species likely introduces more variability  
 287 (“noise”) than comparing two discrete species and results in  
 288 fewer genes exhibiting DE in these phenotype comparisons.

289 Of these trait-based DE comparisons, we detected DE based  
 290 upon differences in color visual system, primary habitat  
 291 use, group living size, and primary diet (frugivore-folivore,  
 292 folivore-omnivore, frugivore-omnivore) but not sex in the  
 293 samples used for this study (Table 2, SI Table 2). The  
 294 highest proportion of trait-based DE was for differences in  
 295 color vision (25.3%) and the lowest was for the diet-based

**Table 2. Proportions of DE genes in primate species V1 vary depending on the compared phenotypes.**

| Phenotype-DE Comparison | #    | %     |
|-------------------------|------|-------|
| Color vision            | 3173 | 25.25 |
| Habitat-use             | 2501 | 19.91 |
| Group-size              | 1704 | 13.56 |
| Folivore-frugivore      | 534  | 4.25  |
| Folivore-omnivore       | 664  | 5.28  |
| Frugivore-omnivore      | 991  | 7.89  |
| Sex                     | 35   | 0.28  |

Pairwise list of phenotype-based DE comparisons. ‘#’ refers to the number of genes exhibiting DE in that pathway; % is the percentage of all expressed genes. Abbreviated from SI Table 2.

296 comparisons (4.3-7.9%; Table 2, SI Table 2). While many of the parent categories of pathways were  
 297 enriched in all phenotype-DE comparisons, there were unique enrichments for specific pathways  
 298 depending on the phenotype compared (Table 3). It is important to note that, for some traits investigated  
 299 here, there is a clear influence of phylogeny on phenotypic differences based purely on the species for  
 300 which we have samples (further discussed in Methods). Because we cannot parse out how much this  
 301 influences the phenotype-DE comparisons, we are conservative in our interpretations of these analyses.

302 Color vision has long been hypothesized to be adaptive in primates with numerous  
 303 complementary and competing hypotheses about the pressures influencing its evolution (reviewed in [18].  
 304 When comparing expression between species that differ in color vision, 25.3% (n = 3173) of genes

**Table 3. KEGG pathways enriched in only one phenotype-DE comparison.**

| Phenotype-DE Comparison    | KEGG Term                               | KEGG Parent Category | Genes | Enrichment P-Value |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Metabolic Pathways         |   |                      |       |                    |
| Color vision               | Biosynthesis of amino acids             | AA                   | 21    | 0.004              |
| Diet: frugivore -omnivore  | Glycine serine and threonine metabolism | AA                   | 5     | 0.046              |
| Group size                 | Histidine metabolism                    | AA                   | 6     | 0.013              |
| Color vision               | Glycolysis Gluconeogenesis              | CAR                  | 17    | 0.030              |
| Diet: frugivore - folivore | Retinol metabolism                      | C&V                  | 5     | 0.030              |
| Color vision               | Sphingolipid metabolism                 | LIP                  | 13    | 0.028              |
| Diet: folivore - omnivore  | Steroid hormone biosynthesis            | LIP                  | 6     | 0.012              |
| Group size                 | Fatty acid degradation                  | LIP                  | 8     | 0.031              |
| Habitat Use                | alpha Linolenic acid metabolism         | LIP                  | 7     | 0.030              |
| Habitat Use                | Ether lipid metabolism                  | LIP                  | 11    | 0.020              |
| Habitat Use                | Glycerophospholipid metabolism          | LIP                  | 20    | 0.013              |
| Color vision               | Pyrimidine metabolism                   | NT                   | 26    | 0.012              |
| Diet: folivore - omnivore  | Purine metabolism                       | NT                   | 12    | 0.015              |
| Neuron-Specific Pathways   |   |                      |       |                    |
| Diet: frugivore -omnivore  | Serotonergic synapse                    | SS                   | 12    | 0.010              |
| Diet: frugivore -omnivore  | Synaptic vesicle cycle                  | SS                   | 8     | 0.012              |
| Group size                 | GABAergic synapse                       | SS                   | 14    | 0.016              |

“Uniquely enriched” KEGG terms are shown for each phenotype-DE comparison investigated. KEGG parent categories do overlap, with the exception of “Cofactors & Vitamins”. ‘Genes’ refers to the number of genes exhibiting DE in that pathway. Abbreviated from SI Table 3. Abbreviations: AA – amino acid; CAR – carbohydrate; LIP – lipid; NT – nucleotide; C&V – cofactor & vitamin; SS – synaptic signaling

305 displaying DE (Table 2; SI Table 2). For our samples, the investigated hominoid and cercopithecoid  
306 species were monomorphic trichromats in all individuals, while the platyrrhine species were polymorphic  
307 with trichromatic homozygous females, dichromatic males or dichromatic heterozygous females (Figure  
308 1; SI Table 1). Despite color vision being sexually dimorphic in some of the platyrrhine species, very few  
309 genes were significantly differentially expressed in V1 between sexes (0.28% DE,  $n = 35$ ; Table 2; SI  
310 Table 2). This may be due to our inclusion of all sampled individuals when comparing expression  
311 differences between sex, not just the species that were sexually dimorphic for trichromacy. We did not  
312 investigate intersex differential expression of only the polymorphic di/trichromatic species because we  
313 had only nine individuals and sex was not evenly distributed across these four species (SI Table 1). There  
314 were no neuronal-specific KEGG signaling pathways enriched in genes displaying DE between  
315 trichromatic species and polymorphic di/trichromatic species but there were a number of metabolic  
316 pathways enriched, including amino acid, nucleotide, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis, and sphingolipid  
317 metabolic pathways (SI Table 3). Notably, color vision was the only phenotype-DE comparison enriched  
318 for the encompassing, large KEGG pathway of “metabolic pathways” and “carbon metabolism” and  
319 included 226 genes (SI Table 3). This was 8-fold more genes than any other KEGG pathway enrichment,  
320 suggesting extensive metabolic differences in the V1 of primates differing in color vision. However,  
321 given the clear phylogenetic influence on these samples (Figure 1, SI Table 1), we cannot resolve whether  
322 these differences are truly due to divergent color visual perception or rather how hominoids and  
323 cercopithecoids differ from platyrrhines in V1.

324 We investigated DE between primarily arboreal and terrestrial species due to the role of V1 in  
325 processing signals derived from navigating and perceiving the environment [9]. The primarily arboreal  
326 species included all four platyrrhine species and two hominoid species (orangutan and siamang) while the  
327 primarily terrestrial species included all four cercopithecoid species and three hominoid species (human,  
328 chimpanzee, and gorilla; Figure 1, SI Table 1). There were 2,501 genes with DE in V1 associated with  
329 differences in primate habitat use (either arboreal or terrestrial; 19.9%, Table 2; SI Table 2). Neural  
330 KEGG pathways enriched in species differing in habit use included neuroactive ligand receptor

331 interaction, long-term depression, and retrograde endocannabinoid signaling (SI Table 3). This phenotype  
332 DE comparison was enriched primarily for lipid metabolic pathways (SI Table 3). Lipids are important in  
333 the brain for long-term energy storage, membrane structure, extracellular signaling, and enhanced  
334 propagation of neural signaling (e.g. myelination) [51]. Habitat use DE enrichments for lipid metabolism  
335 may suggest that these processes differ significantly in V1 as it responds to visual stimuli from divergent  
336 interactions with habitat, such as enhanced V1 processing of depth perception for arboreal versus  
337 terrestrial species.

338 We also explored possible expression differences in V1 that correlate with differences in  
339 sociality, using group size as a proxy variable. For the included species, the “small group” included three  
340 platyrrhines species (spider monkey, marmoset, and saki monkey), and three hominoid species (siamang,  
341 gorilla, and orangutan) that typically have fewer than 20 individuals per group on average and the “large  
342 group” included all four cercopithecoid species, one platyrrhine species (squirrel monkey) and two  
343 hominoid species (human and chimpanzee) that typically have greater than 20 individuals per group  
344 (Figure 1, SI Table 1). We found that 13.6% (n = 1704) genes exhibited DE between species that differed  
345 in group size (Table 2; SI Table 2). Categorical enrichment determined genes displaying DE between  
346 species differing in group size had more neural processes enriched than any other DE comparison based  
347 upon trait except for diet (see below), including neuroactive ligand receptor interaction, long-term  
348 depression, retrograde endocannabinoid signaling, and GABAergic synapse (SI Table 3). Of the genes  
349 exhibiting DE between large and small group living species, metabolic KEGG enrichments included  
350 amino acid sugar and nucleotide sugar metabolism and fatty acid degradation (SI Table 3). Because both  
351 long-term depression and GABAergic synaptic signaling function in inhibitory signaling [52],  
352 enrichments for both of these processes may suggest a significant difference in inhibitory signaling in the  
353 V1 among primates differing in group size, which may be due in part to differential visual responses  
354 necessary for navigating socially complex environments.

355 To compare V1 expression between species that differ by diet, we categorized our species as  
356 primarily frugivorous, primarily folivorous, or omnivorous [50]. The primarily frugivorous species

357 included two hominoid species (chimpanzee and orangutan) and three platyrrhine species (spider monkey,  
358 marmoset, and saki monkey) while we had two primarily folivorous hominoid species (gorilla and  
359 siamang; Figure 1, SI Table 1). The omnivorous species included all four cercopithecoïd species, a single  
360 platyrrhine species (squirrel monkey) and a single hominoid species (human; Figure 1, SI Table 1). We  
361 calculated DE among the three possible comparisons: folivore-frugivore (4.3% DE, n = 534), folivore –  
362 omnivore (5.3%, n = 664), and frugivore – omnivore (7.9%, n = 991; Table 2; SI Table 3). Folivorous  
363 species differed from omnivorous species in in tryptophan, purine, and steroid metabolic KEGG pathways  
364 (SI Table 3). Folivorous species differed from frugivorous species in carbohydrate and protein digestion  
365 and retinol and tryptophan metabolism (SI Table 3). Frugivorous primates displayed much higher  
366 numbers of genes exhibiting DE in V1 than frugivore-folivore and folivore-omnivore comparisons,  
367 though this may be due to a lack of folivorous species in the available samples (only siamang and gorilla  
368 were folivorous; Figure 1; SI Table 2). Frugivorous-omnivorous DE was enriched for serotonergic  
369 synaptic signaling and was the only diet comparison enriched for any neuron-specific KEGG pathways  
370 (SI Table 3). Frugivores differed from omnivores metabolically for amino acid metabolism (SI Table 3).  
371 Given that serotonin levels have an established link to diet [53] and tryptophan is a known precursor for  
372 serotonin [54], the finding that both tryptophan and serotonergic signaling are only enriched in DE  
373 between species differing in diet may suggest that diet has an impact on V1 serotonin signaling by way of  
374 altered tryptophan metabolism.

375 All trait DE comparisons were enriched for at least one pathway in the metabolic parent  
376 categories but not for neural signaling (SI Table 3). Our results suggested that neural processes drive  
377 differences in V1 gene expression in species that differ in group size, habitat use, and diet while  
378 metabolic differences are more responsible for V1 DE between species differing in color vision (SI Table  
379 3). Our approach correlating DE with phenotype suggested an association between V1 expression and  
380 distinctive differences in visually relevant traits.

381

382 **DISCUSSION**

383

384           Although some studies of V1 gene expression compared it both to other regions of the brain, as  
385 well as across species [38, 43-45], no other investigations of brain gene expression included the diversity  
386 and number of primate species studied here. As such, this represents one of the first in-depth  
387 investigations of how V1 gene expression differs across a variety of primate species. We found that while  
388 global gene expression in primate V1 clusters largely by phylogenetic relatedness, the greatest degree of  
389 variation in expression is within hominoids, largely due to divergence of humans and chimpanzees from  
390 other one another as well as other hominoid species. Carbohydrate metabolic processes seem to be driving  
391 expression differences across the primate tree while neural processes are more conserved in V1. A  
392 deviation from this trend is the expression differences between human and chimpanzee. These species are  
393 outliers from all other species and display a relatively large amount of intraspecific variation in global  
394 gene expression profiles as well as in specific pathways related to synaptic signaling and neuronal cell  
395 projections important for maintaining the complex neurological signaling networks key to brain function.  
396 In addition to global and interspecific differences in expression, we were able to link V1 DE to  
397 differences in visually-relevant phenotypes.

398           The enrichment for neuron-specific processes in V1 DE, primarily between human and  
399 chimpanzee, is consistent with previous findings of enrichments for similar processes, such as synaptic  
400 signaling, in differential gene expression that have been reported in various studies of human,  
401 chimpanzee, and rhesus macaque brains [33-35]. Also, metabolic processes similar to those enriched here  
402 have been found to differentiate primate brain gene expression in previous studies of a smaller array of  
403 primate species [37, 38, 43, 55], including that humans specifically differ largely in metabolic processes  
404 related to aerobic glycolysis [34, 35]. Taken together, our results across a broad number of primate  
405 species show that these trends for metabolic and neural signaling differences in the brain extend to V1.

406           Given that V1 is a primary sensory cortex and in view of subtle interspecies differences in visual  
407 perception between closely related primates, little divergence might be expected over shorter evolutionary  
408 times. Consistent with this, we found a significant correlation for greater numbers of genes exhibiting DE

409 between more distantly related species. Our finding that interspecies DE tends to increase with  
410 evolutionary distance has been observed previously in a study of gene expression across ten species  
411 (including six hominoids) and six tissue types [39]. Furthermore, we observed a trend for genes involved  
412 in metabolic signaling to be differentially expressed consistently across interspecies DE comparisons,  
413 regardless of phylogenetic distance, while processes specific to neural signaling were far less common.  
414 Because the most metabolically demanding feature of the brain is synaptic transmission, metabolic  
415 differences are not mutually exclusive with neural signaling processes, but this is an interesting trend  
416 nonetheless. Our findings suggest that altered gene expression of neuron-specific pathways in V1 did not  
417 consistently contribute to functional differences between closely-related species. In contrast, altered  
418 metabolic processes do contribute (e.g. oxidative phosphorylation is enriched in genes exhibiting DE  
419 between all cercopithecoid species; SI Table 2). The sole exception to this generalization is that neuron-  
420 specific processes were among the most significantly enriched pathways in genes exhibiting DE between  
421 human and chimpanzee.

422         Within primates, selective differences in the genome can be linked to diet and metabolism,  
423 suggesting selection has optimized different metabolic processes in lineage-dependent ways [33-35, 56-  
424 59]. The human brain is more energetically costly than that of other primates, utilizing ~ 20% of the  
425 body's metabolic resources, compared to non-human primate brains that use less than 10% [60, 61].  
426 Importantly, allometry alone does not explain the increase in human brain appropriation of glucose  
427 metabolism at this proportion [62-64]. Our results are consistent with previous findings that humans differ  
428 in brain gene expression from chimpanzees for neuron-specific processes related to synaptic transmission  
429 and metabolic processes involved in aerobic glycolysis [34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 55]. These data demonstrate  
430 that, like other brain regions [32, 35, 41, 42], human lineage-specific neurological changes are present in  
431 the visual cortex.

432         Understanding V1 gene expression differences based upon phenotypic variation related to vision  
433 could elucidate the neurological implications of differences in vision and the selective pressures  
434 hypothesized to be linked to these traits.. Although there are important caveats to our analysis of

435 phenotype-based DE, primarily the inability to account for phylogenetic influences (see Methods for more  
436 details), this still represents a significant effort to link proximate gene expression differences in the brain  
437 with evolved variation in ecological traits. DE among species differing in color vision was enriched for a  
438 number of metabolic processes but not neural signaling processes, perhaps suggesting that any expression  
439 differences in V1 influenced by differences in color visual perception are driven more by metabolic  
440 differences than by synaptic signaling. However, this phenotype-DE comparison has strong phylogenetic  
441 inertia and we were unable to determine if this difference represented divergent color perception or a  
442 phylogenetic difference between platyrrhines and cercopithecoids and hominoids.

443         Furthermore, we chose to investigate the link between group size differences and V1 gene  
444 expression due to the hypothesized influences of social behavior on primate brain evolution and the  
445 possible link to required differences in visual perception among group living primates [19]. While V1 is  
446 not explicitly involved in behavioral processes, there were enrichments for pathways known to be  
447 involved in behavior. Primates exhibit extensive variation in social traits, and a number of genes (and  
448 associated pathways) have been hypothesized to be linked to these behaviors, such as those involved in  
449 social bonding or empathy [arginine vasopressin receptor 1A (*AVPR1A*), oxytocin receptor (*OXTR*), and  
450 dopamine receptor (*DRD4*)] [65]. Oxytocin signaling changes in response to social interactions is well  
451 documented [66, 67] and variations in coding sequence for oxytocin receptor and their associated  
452 influence on social behavior have been observed in rhesus macaques [68]. While group size was not  
453 enriched for “oxytocin signaling pathway” or “dopaminergic synapse”, the genes *DRD4* and *OXTR* were  
454 both differentially expressed in the DE comparison of species differing in group size, alternatively  
455 included in the enriched category “neuroactive ligand receptor interaction” (SI Table 3). Our results  
456 showed that genes putatively important in primate social evolution display significant DE in V1 in  
457 primates differing in group size.

458         Future comparisons of multiple brain regions may determine if the observed trends of altered  
459 gene expression between phenotypically distinct primates and between species are V1-specific or a brain  
460 region-independent observation. However, the phenotypes investigated here (color vision variation,

461 arboreality and terrestrially, group size and sociality, and diet) do not have implications solely for primate  
462 vision evolution and thus are not expected only to impact on visual cortex gene expression evolution.  
463 Instead, they have likely played important roles in other brain regions and perhaps the brain overall.  
464 Additionally, the hypothesized importance of the evolutionary trajectories of these phenotypes are not  
465 mutually exclusive of one another. That is, the evolution of trichromatic color vision has likely been  
466 influenced by an interplay of diet, arboreality, social signals and other important primate traits. Because  
467 our methods could parse out the influences of each of these traits on V1 gene expression evolution, we  
468 remained conservative in our interpretations of the association between phenotype evolution and gene  
469 expression evolution. Furthermore, given the highly organized and specific cytoarchitecture of the V1 [9],  
470 and previously determined influence of structural genes on V1-specific gene expression in comparison to  
471 other regions [43], it is possible that V1-region specific changes in gene expression are linked to  
472 maintaining or fine-tuning this cytoarchitecture. However, studies of V1 function are largely limited to  
473 tissue-level functional, mechanistic, and cytoarchitectural investigations [69-71] and primarily only in  
474 rhesus macaques, resulting in a very limited understanding of the gene expression changes that  
475 accompany altered systems-level function. This, in addition to the lack of other brain regions for  
476 comparison in our current study across such disparate primate species and the previous findings that V1  
477 gene expression is similar to other brain regions except cerebellum in a limited number of primate species  
478 (rhesus macaque, chimpanzee, human) [38], we limit our conclusions about V1 region-specific gene  
479 expression and its link to variation in visually relevant phenotypes.

480

## 481 **CONCLUSIONS**

482

483 We investigated the interaction between genotype and phenotype by examining the correlation  
484 between gene expression and phenotypic and behavioral traits, including habitat use, color visual system,  
485 group size, and diet in a broad sampling of primate species, including many understudied species (e.g.  
486 siamang, squirrel monkey, and spider monkey). We determined that neural and metabolic processes

487 known previously to differ between species in other brain regions also demonstrate interspecies and trait-  
488 based differences in V1. We showed that human and chimpanzee are outliers for V1 gene expression,  
489 differing significantly more in neuron-specific processes related to synaptic signaling than other species  
490 do. Although these species appear to be the most divergent, they do not exhibit any major differences in  
491 the visually-relevant phenotypes investigated here for which we were able to determine significant  
492 expression differences. Future studies that include other primate taxa could further investigate the link  
493 between differences in primate vision evolution and visual cortex expression differences.

494         Because primates exhibit many unique visual system traits compared to other mammals,  
495 understanding the genetic basis for primate visual systems in the V1 region would provide valuable  
496 insights into the evolutionary trajectory of those traits. Our data indicate that there is also a correlated  
497 difference in gene expression in the initial processing center of visual signals in the brain. We also show  
498 that humans differ in brain gene expression in the V1 in a manner similar to other regions. Further  
499 investigation of overlap between DE and signals of selection can provide information about which  
500 expression changes are adaptive.

501

## 502 **METHODS**

503

504 **Samples and Library Preparation.** Tissue samples were collected from 28 individuals representing 13  
505 primate species (n = 1-3 per species; Figure 1). Frozen brain samples from captive adult primates free of  
506 known neurological disorders were obtained from various research institutions and zoos as a part of the  
507 National Chimpanzee Brain Resource (NCBR) (see SI Table 1 for sample-specific details). All  
508 individuals had been cared for according to Federal and Institutional Animal Care and Use guidelines and  
509 died of natural causes. All tissue was collected and stored at -80°C with postmortem intervals of less than  
510 8 hours. Further details about the samples can be found in SI Table 1. Due to the opportunistic nature of  
511 sampling such a phylogenetically broad group of primates, there is unavoidable variation in age and sex  
512 of some individuals sampled (SI Table 1).

513 Each sample was dissected from the cortex of the medial aspect of the occipital pole, surrounding  
514 the calcarine sulcus. The thin, striate cortex of V1 was visually identified in each sample. All dissections  
515 included the grey matter of V1, extending a small extent into the underlying white matter. Tissue samples  
516 were homogenized using a TissueLyser (Qiagen) prior to total RNA extraction using an RNeasy Plus  
517 Mini Kit (Qiagen), including a DNase step to remove residual DNA. Total RNA was analyzed for quality  
518 using the Agilent Bioanalyzer system (Agilent RNA 6000 Nano kit). RNA integrity varied among our  
519 samples due sampling from deceased primates, but there was no bias for species. Using the NEBNext  
520 Poly(A) Magnetic mRNA Isolation Kit (NEB), mRNA was isolated from intact total RNA, and cDNA  
521 libraries were made from each sample using the NEBNext RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB).  
522 Library quality was assessed using the Agilent DNA 1000 kit. Pooled samples were sequenced using the  
523 Illumina NextSeq 500 platform to produce 75 base pair reads, yielding a minimum of 20 million reads per  
524 sample.

525 **Read Mapping and Quantification.** Quality-filtered reads were aligned to available primate genomes  
526 with Bowtie2 using default parameters for gapped alignments [72]. Current species-specific ENSEMBL  
527 genomes were used (*Homo sapiens*, GRCh38.p10; *Pan troglodytes*, CHIMP2.1.4; *Gorilla gorilla*,  
528 gorGor3.1; *Pongo abellii*, PPYG2; *Papio anubis*, PapAnu2.0; *Nomascus leucogenys*, Nleu1.0; *Macaca*  
529 *mulatta*, Mmul\_8.0.1; *Callithrix jacchus*, C\_jacchus3.2.1) [73, 74]. For species for which there is no  
530 publicly available reference genome (*Pongo pygmaeus*, *Symphalangus syndactylus*, *Macaca nemestrina*,  
531 *Erythrocebus patas*, *Saimiri sciureus*, *Pithecia pithecia*, and *Ateles fusciceps*), reads were mapped to the  
532 closest related primate for which there was a genome available. Specifically, *M. nemestrina* and *E. patas*  
533 reads were mapped to *M. mulatta*, *S. syndactylus* to *N. leucogenys*, *A. fusciceps*, *S. sciureus*, and *P.*  
534 *pithecia* to *C. jacchus*, and *P. pygmaeus* to *P. abellii*. Mapping percentages were  $\geq 80\%$  using default “—  
535 local” Bowtie2 parameters. The “—very-sensitive-local” parameter was used to increase accuracy and  
536 alignment percentage of the samples with the lowest mapping percentages ( $<$  than 85%; 2 *A. fusciceps*, 1  
537 *S. syndactylus*, and 1 *S. sciureus* samples), and all increased to  $\geq 83.5\%$  (see SI Table 1). HT-Seq [75]  
538 was used to quantify counts per gene for each sample, using ENSEMBL gene transfer files (GTFs)

539 corresponding to the same genome build used for alignment [76]. For each species, homologous genes  
540 were matched to the ENSEMBL human reference set of genes using biomaRt [77]. These were  
541 subsequently filtered to the 12,564 genes from all species that have high orthology confidence, all of  
542 which also had high homolog percent identity to the human query genes as well as gene order  
543 conservation scores, as previously determined by ENSEMBL [76]. This resulted in removal of genes from  
544 all transcriptomes considered if they did not meet orthology confidence in all species. Finally, we used the  
545 R package edgeR [78] to filter out low-expressed genes (counts per million (CPM) > 1 in 1/28 samples),  
546 resulting in 12,330 expressed orthologs in our dataset.

547 **Clustering Analyses.** We used clustering analyses to determine the variation in our samples. We  
548 produced a principal coordinates analysis (PCoA) using the expression profiles of all of the protein  
549 coding genes for each of our samples (n = 1-3 per species). To further visualize patterns within our data,  
550 we produced phenograms by performing hierarchical clustering of the PCoA distances. The PCoA and  
551 dendrograms show that our samples largely cluster by species and clade.

552 **Differential Expression Analysis.** Differential expression (DE) analyses were performed for multiple  
553 pairwise comparisons using a generalized linear model (GLM) in the R package edgeR (SI Table 2) [78].  
554 Normalization of data in EdgeR for DE analyses ensured that DE is not dependent on original tissue size.  
555 Gene expression was considered significantly different at a false discovery rate (FDR) of less than 5%.  
556 DE between species only included species for which we had more than one sample, including human,  
557 chimpanzee, siamang, olive baboon, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, patas monkey, spider monkey,  
558 and marmoset (SI Table 2). To determine if there was a relationship between number of genes exhibiting  
559 DE between species, we used a Pearson correlation between numbers of genes exhibiting DE and  
560 divergence times reported by 10k Trees of the last common branching point of the tree between the two  
561 species compared (SI Table 2; [79]. The multi-factor GLM allowed us to analyze all data at once to detect  
562 DE between species as well as between groups of samples for which the species are known to have  
563 distinct differences in visually relevant phenotypes, data for which were collected from the literature [4,  
564 10, 47-50]. These species-typical data were used to label each of our samples for color visual system

565 (trichromats or polymorphic tri/dichromats), average group size (less than 20 individuals per group or  
566 greater than 20 individuals per group), primary diet (frugivorous, folivorous, or omnivorous), and primary  
567 habitat (arboreal or terrestrial — mapped onto a phylogeny in Figure 1; listed in SI Table 1). For each of  
568 these phenotype contrasts, all samples of the same species-typical phenotype were grouped together and  
569 compared to the group of samples with the opposing species-typical phenotype (e.g. all samples from  
570 primarily frugivorous species were grouped together and compared to all samples from primarily  
571 omnivorous species for the phenotype-DE comparison frugivorous versus omnivorous diet). DE was also  
572 performed on each sample by sex (male or female; SI Table 1). Given the comparative, discovery-based  
573 nature of our analyses, we did not correct p-values of DE genes for the multiple interspecies or  
574 phenotype-DE comparisons, though many would have remained significant.

575         Our goal was to investigate differences in V1 gene expression between species, but also to  
576 attempt to link V1 expression differences with differences in broad, species-level phenotypes. It is  
577 important to note that there a number of caveats to this approach relevant to interpretation of results. We  
578 used species-typical categories for each of the phenotypes we were interested in correlating with V1 gene  
579 expression because we do not have the relevant phenotypic information on each of the individuals from  
580 which our brain samples were obtained. Importantly, our samples are from captive living animals that did  
581 not necessarily experience the wild, ecological condition typical for their species. Thus, our study design  
582 allows us to interpret minimal innate differences in V1 gene expression that may be related to past  
583 evolutionary influences from visual ecological pressures, but not from dynamic experience-dependent  
584 differences, which would probably yield even stronger signals of ecological correlations. For these  
585 reasons, we labeled our samples for phenotype using broad, categories (e.g. primarily arboreal species vs  
586 primarily terrestrial species rather than more discrete measurements) and we determined DE by grouping  
587 samples by species-typical phenotype and comparing between phenotypically distinct groups. This leads  
588 to another important caveat for our phenotype-DE comparisons, which was that our analyses did not  
589 allow us to account for phylogeny. We “mapped” these traits onto a phylogeny in Figure 1 to provide  
590 transparency about some of the clear influences of phylogeny on our divergent phenotype groups. For

591 example, the investigated hominoid and cercopithecoid species are monomorphic for trichromatic color  
592 vision in all individuals regardless of genotype or sex, while the platyrrhine species are polymorphic with  
593 trichromatic homozygous females, dichromatic-males or dichromatic-heterozygous females (Figure 1; SI  
594 Table 1). With these caveats in mind, we were conservative in our interpretation of these analyses.

595 **Categorical Enrichment Analysis of Differentially Expressed Genes.** Genes identified as DE for each  
596 interspecies and phenotype comparison were subsequently used for pathway enrichment with Kyoto  
597 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) [80] to determine differences in signaling and as well as  
598 Gene Ontology (GO) cellular component (CC) categorical enrichment analyses [81, 82] to further  
599 determine the cellular locality of differences. Enrichments were obtained using EnrichR with *crisp* data  
600 sets and filtered by those that have an enrichment p-value less than .05 [83, 84]. To determine the most  
601 biologically relevant enrichments, KEGG pathway enrichments were further filtered to include only those  
602 with five or more genes per enrichment and GO CC enrichments were further filtered to only include  
603 those with ten or more genes per enrichment. Due to the discovery-based nature of our research question  
604 and the filtering of categories based upon gene number, we did not restrict our analyses to only categories  
605 with significant adjusted p-values for multiple comparisons, of which there were fewer. Similarly, GO CC  
606 enrichment terms were also grouped into parent categories related to cellular structures (e.g., “neural cell  
607 projection”) is a larger category containing GO CC terms such as “axon” and “dendritic branch point”  
608 which are encompassed in the established GO CC hierarchy of “cell projections” (SI Table 4). The parent  
609 category of KEGG “neuron-specific processes” includes enrichments for pathways that are unique to the  
610 brain and the majority of these were for synaptic processes (specific neurotransmitters, synaptic activity,  
611 and synaptic vesicle function; SI Table 3). Metabolic pathways include those related to the metabolic  
612 breakdown or synthesis of all major macromolecules, including that of carbohydrates (e.g.  
613 “glycolysis/gluconeogenesis”), lipids (e.g., “fatty acid metabolism”), amino acids (e.g. “glycine, serine,  
614 and threonine metabolism”), and nucleotides (e.g., “purine metabolism” ; SI Table 3). We report all  
615 significant categorical enrichments (SI Table 3, 4), but in our results, largely focus on enrichments for  
616 pathways specifically involved in neuronal and metabolic signaling, as previous work has found that these

617 processes exhibit DE and signatures of positive selection in *cis*-regulatory regions when comparing  
618 human, chimpanzee, and rhesus macaque brains [33-35] and the importance of metabolism in the brain  
619 provides cellular energy and critical synthesis and breakdown of macromolecules [85-89].

620

## 621 **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

622 DE - differential expression

623 V1 - primary visual cortex

624 GO - Gene Ontology

625 BP - biological processes (BP)

626 CC - cellular components

627 KEGG - Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes

628 GLM – generalized linear model

629 PCoA - principal coordinates analysis

630 CPM – counts per million

631

## 632 **DECLARATIONS**

633 Ethics approval and consent to participate: Not applicable.

634 Consent for publication: Not applicable.

635 Availability of data and materials: All read data in the form of FASTQ files have been submitted to the  
636 National Center for Biotechnology Information's (NCBI) Short Read Archive (SRA) with accession code  
637 PRJNA526359.

638 Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

639 Funding: This work was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation [BCS-1750377 to  
640 C.C.B.]; the James S. McDonnell Foundation [220020293 to C.C.S.]; and the National Chimpanzee Brain  
641 Resource at National Institutes of Health [NS092988 to C.C.S.]. All funding supported the acquisition,  
642 processing, and sequencing of primate brain samples.

643 Authors' contributions: JJE, MAR, WDH, PRH, CCS, CCB, and ALB contributed to sample acquisition.  
644 TMZ and CCB generated the gene expression datasets. TMZ, JMK, CCB, and ALB contributed to  
645 analyses and writing of the manuscript. All authors provided intellectual content to and have read and  
646 approved this manuscript for publication.

647 Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank all members of our research group for their input on  
648 this project. We thank Jason Pizzollo and Elena Vazey for their helpful advice.

649  
650  
651  
652

### REFERENCES:

- 653 1. Mollon JD: **“Tho'she kneel'd in that place where they grew...” The uses and origins of**  
654 **primate colour vision.** *Journal of Experimental Biology* 1989, **146**(1):21-38.
- 655 2. Pessoa DMA, Maia R, de Albuquerque Ajuz RC, De Moraes PZPMR, Spyrides MHC, Pessoa  
656 VF: **The adaptive value of primate color vision for predator detection.** *American Journal of*  
657 *Primatology* 2014, **76**(8):721-729.
- 658 3. Dominy NJ, Lucas PW: **Ecological importance of trichromatic vision to primates.** *Nature*  
659 2001, **410**(6826):363.
- 660 4. Jacobs GH: **Primate color vision: a comparative perspective.** *Visual Neuroscience* 2008, **25**(5-  
661 6):619-633.
- 662 5. Martin RD, Ross CF: **The evolutionary and ecological context of primate vision.** *The primate*  
663 *visual system: A comparative approach* 2005:1-36.
- 664 6. Hall MI, Kamilar JM, Kirk EC: **Eye shape and the nocturnal bottleneck of mammals.**  
665 *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 2012:rsb20122258.
- 666 7. Heesy CP, Ross CF: **Evolution of activity patterns and chromatic vision in primates:**  
667 **morphometrics, genetics and cladistics.** *Journal of Human Evolution* 2001, **40**(2):111-149.
- 668 8. Melin AD, Wells K, Moritz GL, Kistler L, Orkin JD, Timm RM, Bernard H, Lakim MB, Perry  
669 GH, Kawamura S: **Euarchontan opsin variation brings new focus to primate origins.**  
670 *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 2016, **33**(4):1029-1041.
- 671 9. Srinivasan S, Carlo CN, Stevens CF: **Predicting visual acuity from the structure of visual**  
672 **cortex.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 2015,  
673 **112**(25):7815-7820.
- 674 10. Wheeler BC, Bradley BJ, Kamilar JM: **Predictors of orbital convergence in primates: A test of**  
675 **the snake detection hypothesis of primate evolution.** *Journal of Human Evolution* 2011,  
676 **61**(3):233-242.
- 677 11. Joffe B, Peichl L, Hendrickson A, Leonhardt H, Solovei I: **Diurnality and nocturnality in**  
678 **primates: an analysis from the rod photoreceptor nuclei perspective.** *Evolutionary Biology*  
679 2014, **41**(1):1-11.
- 680 12. Baker CI: **Visual processing in the primate brain.** *Handbook of Psychology, Second Edition*  
681 2012, **3**.
- 682 13. Walls G: **The Vertebrate Eye and Its Adaptive Radiation. Facsimile edition.** In.: Hafner  
683 Publishing Co., New York; 1942.
- 684 14. Kay RF, Kirk EC: **Osteological evidence for the evolution of activity pattern and visual**  
685 **acuity in primates.** *American Journal of Physical Anthropology: The Official Publication of the*  
686 *American Association of Physical Anthropologists* 2000, **113**(2):235-262.

- 687 15. Ross CF: **Into the light: the origin of Anthrozoidea**. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 2000,  
688 **29**(1):147-194.
- 689 16. Ross CF, Kirk EC: **Evolution of eye size and shape in primates**. *Journal of Human Evolution*  
690 2007, **52**(3):294-313.
- 691 17. Kirk EC, Kay RF: **The evolution of high visual acuity in the Anthrozoidea**. In: *Anthropoid*  
692 *Origins*. Springer; 2004: 539-602.
- 693 18. Kawamura S: **Color vision diversity and significance in primates inferred from genetic and**  
694 **field studies**. *Genes & Genomics* 2016, **38**(9):779-791.
- 695 19. Hiramatsu C, Melin AD, Allen WL, Dubuc C, Higham JP: **Experimental evidence that primate**  
696 **trichromacy is well suited for detecting primate social colour signals**. *Proceedings of the*  
697 *Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 2017, **284**(1856):20162458.
- 698 20. Surridge AK, Osorio D, Mundy NI: **Evolution and selection of trichromatic vision in**  
699 **primates**. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 2003, **18**(4):198-205.
- 700 21. Osorio D, Vorobyev M: **Colour vision as an adaptation to frugivory in primates**. *Proceedings*  
701 *of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 1996, **263**(1370):593-599.
- 702 22. Veilleux CC, Scarry CJ, Di Fiore A, Kirk EC, Bolnick DA, Lewis RJ: **Group benefit associated**  
703 **with polymorphic trichromacy in a Malagasy primate (Propithecus verreauxi)**. *Scientific*  
704 *Reports* 2016, **6**:38418.
- 705 23. Changizi MA, Zhang Q, Shimojo S: **Bare skin, blood and the evolution of primate colour**  
706 **vision**. *Biology Letters* 2006, **2**(2):217-221.
- 707 24. Fedigan LM, Melin AD, Addicott JF, Kawamura S: **The heterozygote superiority hypothesis**  
708 **for polymorphic color vision is not supported by long-term fitness data from wild**  
709 **neotropical monkeys**. *PloS one* 2014, **9**(1):e84872.
- 710 25. Clifford CW, Ibbotson M: **Fundamental mechanisms of visual motion detection: models, cells**  
711 **and functions**. *Progress in Neurobiology* 2002, **68**(6):409-437.
- 712 26. Barton RA: **Binocularity and brain evolution in primates**. *Proceedings of the National*  
713 *Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 2004, **101**(27):10113-10115.
- 714 27. Preuss TM, Coleman GQ: **Human-specific organization of primary visual cortex: alternating**  
715 **compartments of dense Cat-301 and calbindin immunoreactivity in layer 4A**. *Cerebral*  
716 *Cortex* 2002, **12**(7):671-691.
- 717 28. Preuss TM, Qi H, Kaas JH: **Distinctive compartmental organization of human primary visual**  
718 **cortex**. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 1999,  
719 **96**(20):11601-11606.
- 720 29. de Sousa AA, Sherwood CC, Schleicher A, Amunts K, MacLeod CE, Hof PR, Zilles K:  
721 **Comparative cytoarchitectural analyses of striate and extrastriate areas in hominoids**.  
722 *Cerebral Cortex* 2009, **20**(4):966-981.
- 723 30. Sherwood CC, Raghanti MA, Stimpson CD, Bonar CJ, de Sousa AA, Preuss TM, Hof PR:  
724 **Scaling of inhibitory interneurons in areas V1 and V2 of anthropoid primates as revealed**  
725 **by calcium-binding protein immunohistochemistry**. *Brain, Behavior and Evolution* 2007,  
726 **69**(3):176-195.
- 727 31. King M-C, Wilson AC: **Evolution at two levels in humans and chimpanzees**. *Science* 1975,  
728 **188**(4184):107-116.
- 729 32. Babbitt CC, Haygood R, Nielsen WJ, Wray GA: **Gene expression and adaptive noncoding**  
730 **changes during human evolution**. *BMC Genomics* 2017, **18**(1):435.
- 731 33. Haygood R, Babbitt CC, Fedrigo O, Wray GA: **Contrasts between adaptive coding and**  
732 **noncoding changes during human evolution**. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*  
733 *of the United States of America* 2010:200911249.
- 734 34. Babbitt CC, Fedrigo O, Pfeifferle AD, Boyle AP, Horvath JE, Furey TS, Wray GA: **Both**  
735 **noncoding and protein-coding RNAs contribute to gene expression evolution in the primate**  
736 **brain**. *Genome Biology and Evolution* 2010, **2**:67-79.

- 737 35. Bauernfeind AL, Soderblom EJ, Turner ME, Moseley MA, Ely JJ, Hof PR, Sherwood CC, Wray  
738 GA, Babbitt CC: **Evolutionary divergence of gene and protein expression in the brains of**  
739 **humans and chimpanzees.** *Genome Biology and Evolution* 2015, **7**(8):2276-2288.
- 740 36. Haygood R, Fedrigo O, Hanson B, Yokoyama K-D, Wray GA: **Promoter regions of many**  
741 **neural-and nutrition-related genes have experienced positive selection during human**  
742 **evolution.** *Nature Genetics* 2007, **39**(9):1140.
- 743 37. Khaitovich P, Hellmann I, Enard W, Nowick K, Leinweber M, Franz H, Weiss G, Lachmann M,  
744 Pääbo S: **Parallel patterns of evolution in the genomes and transcriptomes of humans and**  
745 **chimpanzees.** *Science* 2005, **309**(5742):1850-1854.
- 746 38. Khaitovich P, Muetzel B, She X, Lachmann M, Hellmann I, Dietzsch J, Steigele S, Do H-H,  
747 Weiss G, Enard W: **Regional patterns of gene expression in human and chimpanzee brains.**  
748 *Genome Research* 2004, **14**(8):1462-1473.
- 749 39. Brawand D, Soumillon M, Necsulea A, Julien P, Csárdi G, Harrigan P, Weier M, Liechti A,  
750 Aximu-Petri A, Kircher M: **The evolution of gene expression levels in mammalian organs.**  
751 *Nature* 2011, **478**(7369):343.
- 752 40. Blekhman R, Oshlack A, Chabot AE, Smyth GK, Gilad Y: **Gene regulation in primates evolves**  
753 **under tissue-specific selection pressures.** *PLoS genetics* 2008, **4**(11):e1000271.
- 754 41. Sousa AM, Zhu Y, Raghanti MA, Kitchen RR, Onorati M, Tebbenkamp AT, Stutz B, Meyer KA,  
755 Li M, Kawasawa YI: **Molecular and cellular reorganization of neural circuits in the human**  
756 **lineage.** *Science* 2017, **358**(6366):1027-1032.
- 757 42. Konopka G, Friedrich T, Davis-Turak J, Winden K, Oldham MC, Gao F, Chen L, Wang G-Z,  
758 Luo R, Preuss TM: **Human-specific transcriptional networks in the brain.** *Neuron* 2012,  
759 **75**(4):601-617.
- 760 43. Bernard A, Lubbers LS, Tanis KQ, Luo R, Podtelezchnikov AA, Finney EM, McWhorter MM,  
761 Serikawa K, Lemon T, Morgan R: **Transcriptional architecture of the primate neocortex.**  
762 *Neuron* 2012, **73**(6):1083-1099.
- 763 44. Xu C, Li Q, Efimova O, He L, Tatsumoto S, Stepanova V, Oishi T, Udono T, Yamaguchi K,  
764 Shigenobu S: **Human-specific features of spatial gene expression and regulation in eight**  
765 **brain regions.** *Genome Research* 2018:gr. 231357.231117.
- 766 45. Oldham MC, Horvath S, Geschwind DH: **Conservation and evolution of gene coexpression**  
767 **networks in human and chimpanzee brains.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*  
768 *of the United States of America* 2006, **103**(47):17973-17978.
- 769 46. Chen J, Swofford R, Johnson J, Cummings BB, Rogel N, Lindblad-Toh K, Haerty W, di Palma F,  
770 Regev A: **A quantitative framework for characterizing the evolutionary history of**  
771 **mammalian gene expression.** *Genome research* 2019, **29**(1):53-63.
- 772 47. Deegan II JF, Jacobs GH: **Spectral sensitivity of gibbons: implications for photopigments and**  
773 **color vision.** *Folia Primatologica* 2001, **72**(1):26-29.
- 774 48. Wheeler BC, Scarry CJ, Koenig A: **Rates of agonism among female primates: a cross-taxon**  
775 **perspective.** *Behavioral Ecology* 2013, **24**(6):1369-1380.
- 776 49. Kamilar JM, Cooper N: **Phylogenetic signal in primate behaviour, ecology and life history.**  
777 *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 2013,  
778 **368**(1618):20120341.
- 779 50. DeCasien AR, Williams SA, Higham JP: **Primate brain size is predicted by diet but not**  
780 **sociality.** *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2017, **1**(5):0112.
- 781 51. Tracey TJ, Steyn FJ, Wolvetang EJ, Ngo ST: **Neuronal Lipid Metabolism: Multiple Pathways**  
782 **Driving Functional Outcomes in Health and Disease.** *Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience*  
783 2018, **11**:10.
- 784 52. Vogt K: **Diversity in GABAergic signaling.** In: *Advances in Pharmacology.* vol. 73: Elsevier;  
785 2015: 203-222.
- 786 53. Fernstrom JD, Wurtman RJ: **Brain serotonin content: increase following ingestion of**  
787 **carbohydrate diet.** *Science* 1971, **174**(4013):1023-1025.

- 788 54. Jenkins T, Nguyen J, Polglaze K, Bertrand P: **Influence of tryptophan and serotonin on mood**  
789 **and cognition with a possible role of the gut-brain axis.** *Nutrients* 2016, **8**(1):56.
- 790 55. Uddin M, Wildman DE, Liu G, Xu W, Johnson RM, Hof PR, Kapatos G, Grossman LI,  
791 Goodman M: **Sister grouping of chimpanzees and humans as revealed by genome-wide**  
792 **phylogenetic analysis of brain gene expression profiles.** *Proceedings of the National Academy*  
793 *of Sciences of the United States of America* 2004, **101**(9):2957-2962.
- 794 56. Stringer CB, Andrews P: **Genetic and fossil evidence for the origin of modern humans.**  
795 *Science* 1988, **239**(4845):1263-1268.
- 796 57. Schaffner SF, Foo C, Gabriel S, Reich D, Daly MJ, Altshuler D: **Calibrating a coalescent**  
797 **simulation of human genome sequence variation.** *Genome Research* 2005, **15**(11):1576-1583.
- 798 58. Fagundes NJ, Ray N, Beaumont M, Neuenschwander S, Salzano FM, Bonatto SL, Excoffier L:  
799 **Statistical evaluation of alternative models of human evolution.** *Proceedings of the National*  
800 *Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 2007, **104**(45):17614-17619.
- 801 59. Babbitt CC, Warner LR, Fedrigo O, Wall CE, Wray GA: **Genomic signatures of diet-related**  
802 **shifts during human origins.** *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 2011,  
803 **278**(1708):961-969.
- 804 60. Mink JW, Blumenshine RJ, Adams DB: **Ratio of central nervous system to body metabolism**  
805 **in vertebrates: its constancy and functional basis.** *American Journal of Physiology-*  
806 *Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology* 1981, **241**(3):R203-R212.
- 807 61. Hofman MA: **Energy metabolism, brain size and longevity in mammals.** *The Quarterly*  
808 *Review of Biology* 1983, **58**(4):495-512.
- 809 62. Karbowski J: **Global and regional brain metabolic scaling and its functional consequences.**  
810 *BMC Biology* 2007, **5**(1):18.
- 811 63. Yu Y, Karbowski J, Sachdev RN, Feng J: **Effect of temperature and glia in brain size**  
812 **enlargement and origin of allometric body-brain size scaling in vertebrates.** *BMC*  
813 *Evolutionary Biology* 2014, **14**(1):178.
- 814 64. Martin RD: **Relative brain size and basal metabolic rate in terrestrial vertebrates.** *Nature*  
815 1981, **293**(5827):57.
- 816 65. Bradley BJ, Lawler RR: **Linking genotypes, phenotypes, and fitness in wild primate**  
817 **populations.** *Evolutionary Anthropology* 2011, **20**(3):104-119.
- 818 66. Grinevich V, Stoop R: **Interplay between Oxytocin and Sensory Systems in the Orchestration**  
819 **of Socio-Emotional Behaviors.** *Neuron* 2018, **99**(5):887-904.
- 820 67. Rilling JK, Chen X, Chen X, Haroon E: **Intranasal oxytocin modulates neural functional**  
821 **connectivity during human social interaction.** *American Journal of Primatology* 2018:e22740.
- 822 68. Madlon-Kay S, Montague MJ, Brent LJN, Ellis S, Zhong B, Snyder-Mackler N, Horvath JE,  
823 Skene JHP, Platt ML: **Weak effects of common genetic variation in oxytocin and vasopressin**  
824 **receptor genes on rhesus macaque social behavior.** *American Journal of Primatology* 2018,  
825 **0**(0):e22873.
- 826 69. Cumming BG, Parker AJ: **Local disparity not perceived depth is signaled by binocular**  
827 **neurons in cortical area V1 of the macaque.** *Journal of Neuroscience* 2000, **20**(12):4758-4767.
- 828 70. Gur M, Beylin A, Snodderly DM: **Response variability of neurons in primary visual cortex**  
829 **(V1) of alert monkeys.** *Journal of Neuroscience* 1997, **17**(8):2914-2920.
- 830 71. Supèr H, Spekreijse H, Lamme VA: **Two distinct modes of sensory processing observed in**  
831 **monkey primary visual cortex (V1).** *Nature Neuroscience* 2001, **4**(3):304.
- 832 72. Langmead B, Salzberg SL: **Fast gapped-read alignment with Bowtie 2.** *Nature Methods* 2012,  
833 **9**(4):357.
- 834 73. Kersey PJ, Allen JE, Allot A, Barba M, Boddu S, Bolt BJ, Carvalho-Silva D, Christensen M,  
835 Davis P, Grabmueller C: **Ensembl Genomes 2018: an integrated omics infrastructure for**  
836 **non-vertebrate species.** *Nucleic Acids Research* 2017, **46**(D1):D802-D808.
- 837 74. Schneider VA, Graves-Lindsay T, Howe K, Bouk N, Chen H-C, Kitts PA, Murphy TD, Pruitt  
838 KD, Thibaud-Nissen F, Albracht D: **Evaluation of GRCh38 and de novo haploid genome**

839 **assemblies demonstrates the enduring quality of the reference assembly.** *Genome Research*  
840 2017.

841 75. Anders S, Pyl PT, Huber W: **HTSeq—a Python framework to work with high-throughput**  
842 **sequencing data.** *Bioinformatics* 2015, **31**(2):166-169.

843 76. Aken BL, Achuthan P, Akanni W, Amode MR, Bernsdorff F, Bhai J, Billis K, Carvalho-Silva D,  
844 Cummins C, Clapham P: **Ensembl 2017.** *Nucleic Acids Research* 2016, **45**(D1):D635-D642.

845 77. Kinsella RJ, Kähäri A, Haider S, Zamora J, Proctor G, Spudich G, Almeida-King J, Staines D,  
846 Derwent P, Kerhornou A: **Ensembl BioMart: a hub for data retrieval across taxonomic**  
847 **space.** *Database* 2011, **2011**.

848 78. Robinson MD, McCarthy DJ, Smyth GK: **edgeR: a Bioconductor package for differential**  
849 **expression analysis of digital gene expression data.** *Bioinformatics* 2010, **26**(1):139-140.

850 79. Arnold C, Matthews LJ, Nunn CL: **The 10kTrees website: a new online resource for primate**  
851 **phylogeny.** *Evolutionary Anthropology* 2010, **19**(3):114-118.

852 80. Ogata H, Goto S, Sato K, Fujibuchi W, Bono H, Kanehisa M: **KEGG: Kyoto encyclopedia of**  
853 **genes and genomes.** *Nucleic Acids Research* 1999, **27**(1):29-34.

854 81. Antonazzo G, Attrill H, Brown N, Marygold SJ, McQuilton P, Ponting L, Millburn GH, Rey A,  
855 Stefancsik R, Tweedie S: **Expansion of the Gene Ontology knowledgebase and resources.**  
856 *Nucleic Acids Research* 2017.

857 82. Ashburner M, Ball CA, Blake JA, Botstein D, Butler H, Cherry JM, Davis AP, Dolinski K,  
858 Dwight SS, Eppig JT: **Gene Ontology: tool for the unification of biology.** *Nature Genetics*  
859 2000, **25**(1):25.

860 83. Chen EY, Tan CM, Kou Y, Duan Q, Wang Z, Meirelles GV, Clark NR, Ma'ayan A: **Enrichr:**  
861 **interactive and collaborative HTML5 gene list enrichment analysis tool.** *BMC Bioinformatics*  
862 2013, **14**(1):128.

863 84. Kuleshov MV, Jones MR, Rouillard AD, Fernandez NF, Duan Q, Wang Z, Koplev S, Jenkins SL,  
864 Jagodnik KM, Lachmann A: **Enrichr: a comprehensive gene set enrichment analysis web**  
865 **server 2016 update.** *Nucleic Acids Research* 2016, **44**(W1):W90-W97.

866 85. Brown AM, Wender R, Ransom BR: **Metabolic substrates other than glucose support axon**  
867 **function in central white matter.** *Journal of Neuroscience Research* 2001, **66**(5):839-843.

868 86. Tekkök SB, Brown AM, Westenbroek R, Pellerin L, Ransom BR: **Transfer of glycogen-derived**  
869 **lactate from astrocytes to axons via specific monocarboxylate transporters supports mouse**  
870 **optic nerve activity.** *Journal of Neuroscience Research* 2005, **81**(5):644-652.

871 87. Bauernfeind AL, Babbitt CC: **The appropriation of glucose through primate**  
872 **neurodevelopment.** *Journal of human evolution* 2014, **77**:132-140.

873 88. Magistretti PJ, Allaman I: **A cellular perspective on brain energy metabolism and functional**  
874 **imaging.** *Neuron* 2015, **86**(4):883-901.

875 89. Mächler P, Wyss MT, Elsayed M, Stobart J, Gutierrez R, von Faber-Castell A, Kaelin V, Zuend  
876 M, San Martín A, Romero-Gómez I: **In vivo evidence for a lactate gradient from astrocytes to**  
877 **neurons.** *Cell Metabolism* 2016, **23**(1):94-102.

878 90. Maddison WP, Maddison DR: **Mesquite: a modular system for evolutionary analysis. Version**  
879 **3.51.** In.; 2018.

880  
881  
882

## 883 **FIGURE AND TABLE LEGENDS**

884

885 **Figure 1 | Phenotypic traits of species for which V1 gene expression was investigated.** Phenotypic traits

886 for color vision, habitat use, and group size are mapped on the phylogeny and diet is depicted to the right

887 of species names. Species without a diet indicator were coded as omnivorous. The tree was generated  
888 using 10k Trees Version 3 [79] and Mesquite [90].

889

890 **Figure 2 | Humans and chimpanzees are the most divergent in V1 gene expression.** A) principal  
891 coordinate analyses (PCoA) of V1 transcriptomes color-coded by species. Shapes of points indicate clade:  
892 triangles for hominoids, squares for cercopithecoids, and circles for platyrrhines. B) Hierarchical  
893 clustering of V1 transcriptomes of each sample with bootstrap values and the individual sample number  
894 in brackets.

895

896 **Figure 3 | Expression profiles of metabolic genes in primate V1 cluster by clade.** Clustering of expression  
897 profiles of 1,039 metabolic genes in primate V1. Highly correlated genes (columns) cluster together and  
898 samples (rows) cluster based on Euclidean distance between expression values. Only species for which  
899 there were greater than one sample per species were used. Averages of expression per gene were  
900 calculated across replicates per species. The bottom bar represents membership in the color-coded KEGG  
901 metabolic pathways for each gene in the heatmap.

902

903 **SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE LIST:**

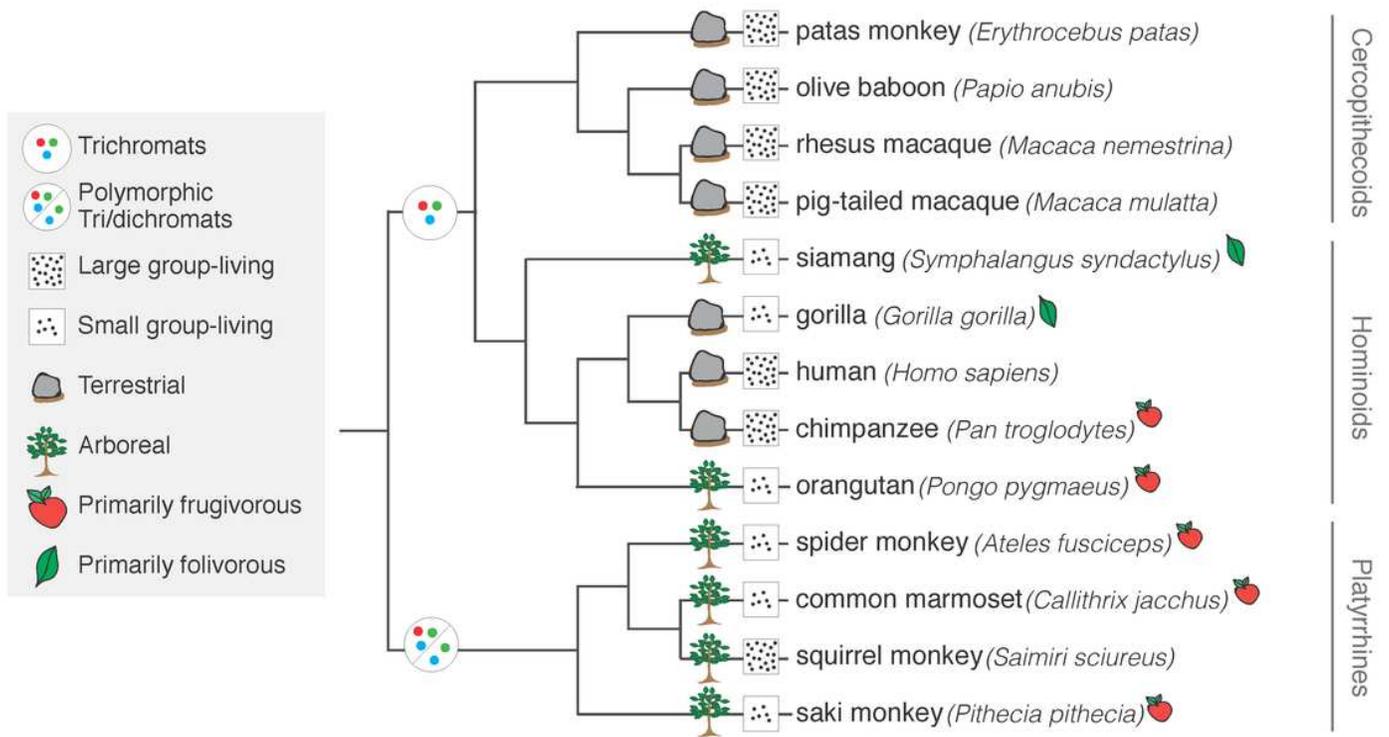
904

| 905 | Table Name           | Content  |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| 906 | Supplemental Table 1 | Sample-specific information.   |
| 907 |                      |  |
| 908 | Supplemental Table 2 | Full table of numbers of genes exhibiting DE for all pairwise DE       |
| 909 |                      | comparisons.   |
| 910 |                      |  |
| 911 | Supplemental Table 3 | Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG)                         |
| 912 |                      | Enrichments for each pairwise DE comparison. All pathways              |
| 913 |                      | enriched are significant ( $p < .05$ ) and include 5 or greater genes. |
| 914 |                      | Specific KEGG term, ID number and parent group are listed.             |
| 915 |                      |  |
| 916 | Supplemental Table 4 | Gene ontology (GO) cellular component (CC) enrichments for             |
| 917 |                      | each pairwise DE comparison. All CC's are significant ( $p < .05$ )    |
| 918 |                      | and contain 10 or greater genes. Specific CC terms, IDs, and           |
| 919 |                      | parent group are listed.   |

920

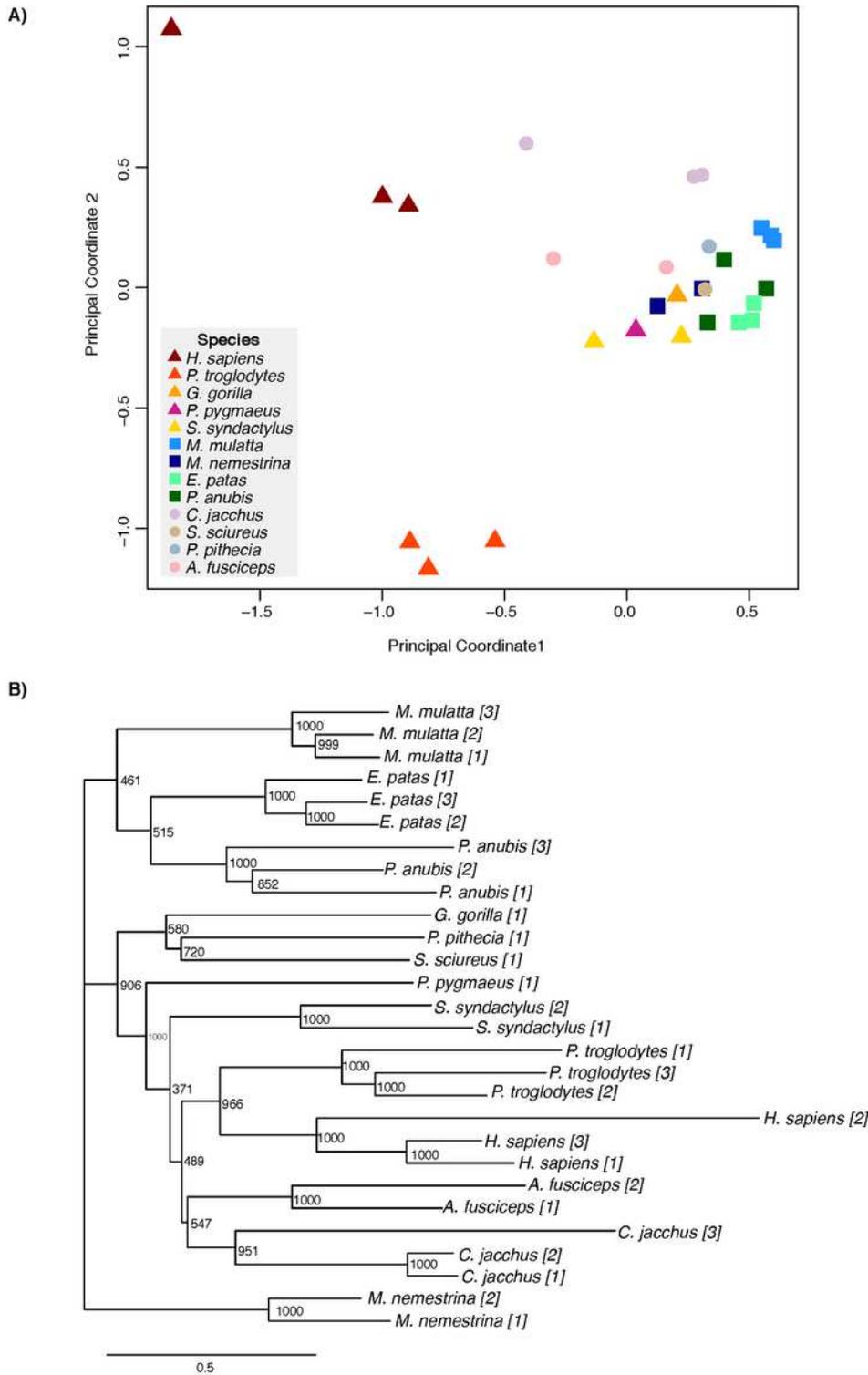
921

# Figures



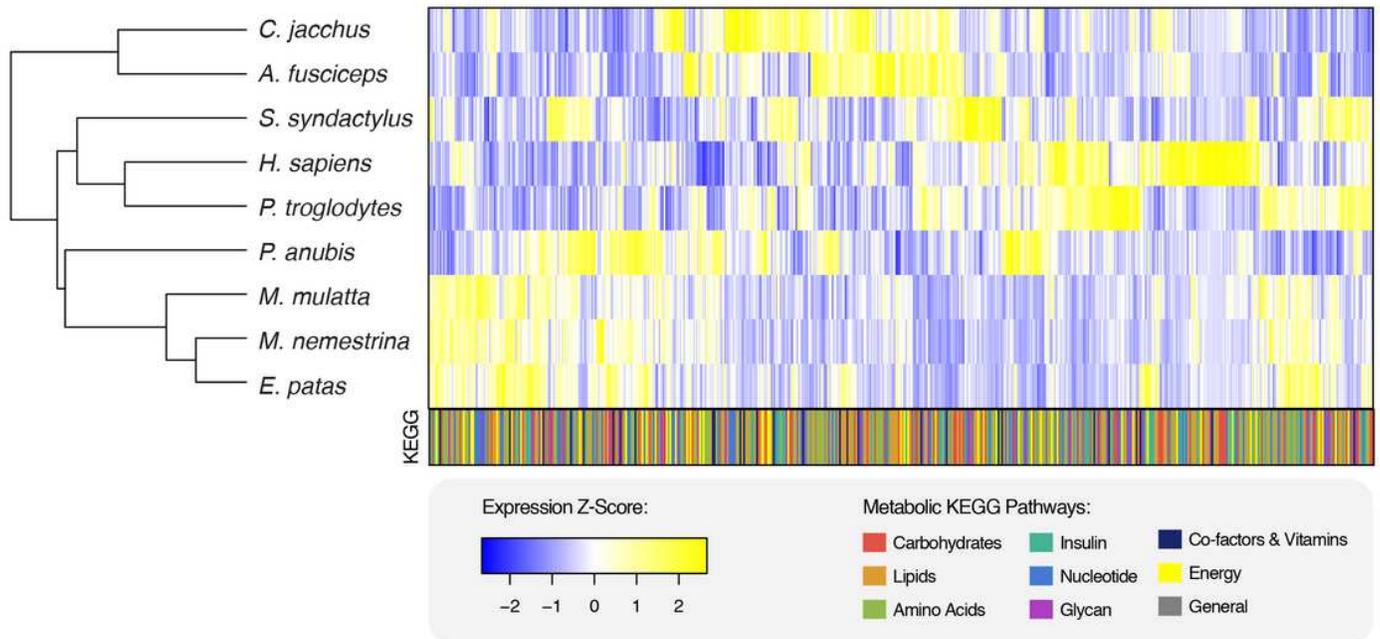
**Figure 1**

Phenotypic traits of species for which V1 gene expression was investigated. Phenotypic traits for color vision, habitat use, and group size are mapped on the phylogeny and diet is depicted to the right of species names. Species without a diet indicator were coded 887 as omnivorous. The tree was generated using 10k Trees Version 3 [79] and Mesquite [90].



**Figure 2**

Humans and chimpanzees are the most divergent in V1 gene expression. A) principal coordinate analyses (PCoA) of V1 transcriptomes color-coded by species. Shapes of points indicate clade: triangles for hominoids, squares for cercopithecoids, and circles for platyrrhines. B) Hierarchical clustering of V1 transcriptomes of each sample with bootstrap values and the individual sample number in brackets.



**Figure 3**

Expression profiles of metabolic genes in primate V1 cluster by clade. Clustering of expression profiles of 1,039 metabolic genes in primate V1. Highly correlated genes (columns) cluster together and samples (rows) cluster based on Euclidean distance between expression values. Only species for which there were greater than one sample per species were used. Averages of expression per gene were calculated across replicates per species. The bottom bar represents membership in the color-coded KEGG metabolic pathways for each gene in the heatmap.

## Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

- [ZintelV1SITables.xlsx](#)