

# Parallel Evolution of Cortical Areas Involved in Skilled Hand Use

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Dexterous hands, used to manipulate food, tools, and other objects, are one of the hallmarks of primate evolution. However, the neural substrate of fine manual control necessary for these behaviors remains unclear. Here, we describe the functional organization of parietal cortical areas 2 and 5 in the cebus monkey. Whereas other New World monkeys can be quite dexterous, and possess a poorly developed area 5, cebus monkeys are the only New World primate known to use a precision grip, and thus have an extended repertoire of manual behaviors. Unlike other New World Monkeys, but much like the macaque monkey, cebus monkeys possess a proprioceptive cortical area 2 and a well developed area 5, which is associated with motor planning and the generation of internal body coordinates necessary for visually guided reaching, grasping, and manipulation. The similarity of these fields in cebus monkeys and distantly related macaque monkeys with similar manual abilities indicates that the range of cortical organizations that can emerge in primates is constrained, and those that emerge are the result of highly conserved developmental mechanisms that shape the boundaries and topographic organizations of cortical areas.

**Key words:** area 2; area 5; posterior parietal cortex; primate evolution; reaching; grasping

## Introduction

All species possess morphology and behaviors associated with their ecological niche. For instance, the aerial precision of bats and the agility of mountain goats are attributable to specialized forelimb morphology such as wings and hooves. Likewise, the human hand is a derivation of the forelimb that allows us to perform remarkable feats of manual precision (Mountcastle, 2005a). Interestingly, wings, hooves, and hands evolved independently from each other, but all originated from this highly conserved feature of the vertebrate body plan. Despite this diversity, the persistence of basic forelimb structure indicates that the ways in which body morphologies evolve is highly constrained (Patel, 2003; Showell et al., 2004).

Of equal importance to forelimb function is the neural circuitry generating behaviors associated with the forelimb, which includes cortical and subcortical structures that process inputs from mechanosensory and proprioceptive receptors of the forelimb, and motor areas that plan and execute movements of the

limb (Castiello, 2005; Mountcastle, 2005c). Because comparative studies indicate that cortical field evolution is constrained in location, organization, and connectivity, we hypothesized that cortical regions associated with hand use coevolve in predictable ways in primates with similar hand morphology and use. Here, we examined the organization of somatosensory cortex in the New World cebus monkey whose hand morphology and use parallel that of the well studied Old World macaque.

Whereas other New World species such as squirrel monkeys exclusively use a power grip, cebus monkeys frequently use a precision grip in which the thumb and forefinger are brought into contact with one another to manipulate small objects, or engage in goal-directed tool use (Fragaszy, 1983; Christel and Fragaszy, 2000; Spinozzi et al., 2004). The changes to hand morphology that made a precision grip possible are different in cebus and macaques, suggesting that the precision grip evolved independently after the divergence of New and Old World monkeys (Napier and Napier, 1967; Fleagle and Simons, 1995; Rose, 1996). Comparisons of nervous system organization reveal that macaques and cebus have robust corticospinal terminations in the ventral horn laminae of the spinal cord innervating individual digits of the hand, whereas squirrel monkeys have a restricted projection zone (Bernhard et al., 1953; Tigges et al., 1979; Kuypers, 1981; Heffner and Masterton, 1983; Bortoff and Strick, 1993; Maier et al., 1997; Nakajima et al., 2000). Furthermore, cortical regions that process inputs from the hand are well developed in the parietal cortex of Old World monkeys (Fig. 1). In contrast, in most New World monkeys, fewer cortical fields are present in the corresponding location. Specifically, two of these fields, areas 2 and 5, are well developed in macaques, but

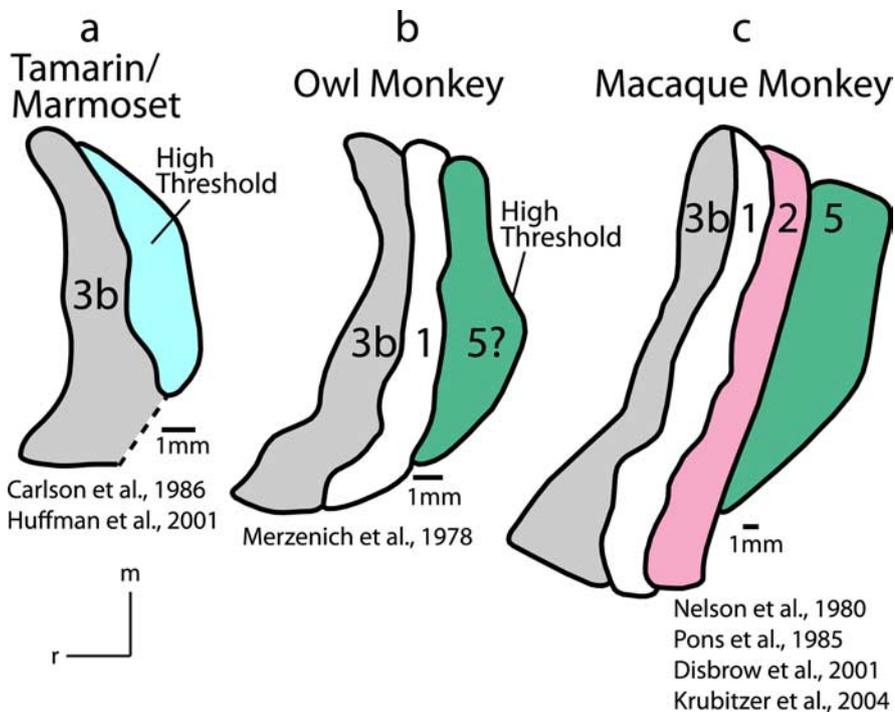
Received June 9, 2007; revised July 23, 2007; accepted July 30, 2007.

This work was supported by a grant from the McDonnell Foundation, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Grant R01-NS035103-11 (L.K.), and a grant from the Australian Research Council (M.G.P.R.). Support from Programa de Núcleos de Excelência, Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Rio de Janeiro, Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos, and Conselho Nacional de Pesquisa was awarded to J.G.F., J.G.M.S., M.F., and R.G. at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. We thank Sarah Long, Deborah Hunt, DeLaine Larsen, and Rowan Tweedale for helpful comments on this manuscript, and to Sally Mendoza, Carmel Stanko, and John Capitanio for assistance with titi monkey photography.

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DOI:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2632-07.2007

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**Figure 1.** *a–c*, Schematic diagrams of marmoset (*a*), owl monkey (*b*), and macaque monkey (*c*) parietal areas involved in object exploration and reaching and grasping. Note that in less-dexterous New World species, these areas are less well developed or absent (*a, b*), whereas in the dexterous Old World macaque (*c*), these areas are well developed and include four parietal fields, areas 3b, 1, 2, and 5.

are absent or poorly developed in New World monkeys (Padberg et al., 2005).

Our goal was to examine the organization of cortex in the expected location of areas 2 and 5 in cebus, and compare this with macaques. We demonstrate a very similar organization in cebus, suggesting limitations in the types of cortical organization that evolve, likely because of the synergistic action of intrinsic and extrinsic factors common to both groups.

## Materials and Methods

The organization of areas 2 and 5 was examined in three adult cebus monkeys (*Cebus apella*) weighing 1.8–2.1 kg using standard multiunit electrophysiological recording techniques combined with architectonic analysis. Experimental protocols conformed to National Institutes of Health guidelines.

**Electrophysiological recording.** Animals were initially anesthetized with intramuscular injections of ketamine hydrochloride (10 mg/kg) and xylazine (1 mg/kg), and then administered atropine (0.04 mg/kg). Once anesthetized, the animals were cannulated. Surgical levels of anesthesia were maintained with supplemental doses of ketamine and xylazine delivered intramuscularly or intravenously. A continuous infusion of lactated Ringer's solution (6 ml/kg/h) was given intravenously via a calibrated syringe pump. Throughout the experiment the animal's heart rate, respiration rate, and temperature were monitored and maintained. Once the animal was anesthetized and stabilized, the skin was cut, the temporalis muscle was retracted and a craniotomy was made over the anterior and posterior parietal cortex.

Electrophysiological recordings were obtained with tungsten-irvish microelectrodes (1–5 M $\Omega$  at 100 Hz; A-M Systems, Sequim, WA). The electrode was placed perpendicular to the cortical surface, and a calibrated micromanipulator (Kopf Instruments, Tujunga, CA) was used to lower the electrode in increments of 500  $\mu$ m into the cortex. The electrode was moved in the *x–y* plane in increments of 500–750  $\mu$ m. Once the electrode was in place, the body surface was stimulated, and the receptive fields of neurons at that cortical site were drawn on diagrams of the

monkey's body. The neural response was amplified, filtered, and monitored through a loudspeaker. Cutaneous stimulation consisted of light displacements of skin with a fine probe, and light brushing of hairs and skin. Light to moderate taps, digit and limb manipulation, and light pressure were used to stimulate deep receptors of the muscles, joints, and skin. In all animals, the contralateral and ipsilateral body surface, joints and musculature were stimulated. Selected recording sites in these experiments were marked by coating the recording electrode with a 10% solution of diamidino yellow (DY; Sigma, St. Louis, MO), and then reinserting the electrode into the cortex at sites either on the surface of cortex or into the depths of the intraparietal sulcus (IPS). This method allowed us to readily identify selected electrode penetrations, determine electrode angle for the penetrations into the banks of sulci, and relate recording sites to histologically processed tissue.

**Histological processing.** After completion of the electrophysiological mapping session, each animal was administered a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbitone and transcardially perfused with 0.9% saline, followed by 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate buffer, and then 4% paraformaldehyde in 10% sucrose phosphate buffer, pH 7.2–7.4. The brain was removed from the skull and, in two cases, each cortical hemisphere was carefully removed from the underlying thalamus and brainstem. One hemisphere for each of these two cases was manually flattened and then placed beneath a lightly weighted microscope slide overnight in phosphate buffer with 30% sucrose. This hemisphere was later sectioned tangentially at 55  $\mu$ m. The remaining hemispheres from these two cases were left intact in phosphate buffer with 30% sucrose before sectioning horizontally at 80  $\mu$ m. The thalami in all cases were placed in phosphate buffer with 30% sucrose overnight and were sectioned for later analysis in a related study. In the third case, the brain was left intact and placed into phosphate buffer with 30% sucrose. In this case, the entire brain was sectioned horizontally at 60  $\mu$ m. Alternate series of cortical sections were processed for Nissl or myelin (Gallyas, 1979).

**Data analysis.** In the first stage of our analysis, electrophysiological maps of the brain were made by analyzing receptive field positions and stimulus preferences at all sites, and drawing interpolated borders between different body part representations. The angle of our electrode penetrations in the rostral bank of the IPS was determined from electrode tracks and the DY probes on Nissl-stained and/or myelin-stained sections. Next, we used a camera lucida to draw architectonic boundaries from the entire series of tangentially sectioned tissue stained for myelin. These drawings also included the outline of the section, blood vessels, tissue artifacts, DY probes, and electrode angles. By aligning all of these landmarks, architectonic boundaries throughout the entire series of sections were obtained. This architectonic reconstruction was directly related to the electrophysiological recordings by matching the probes drawn on our picture of the brain with those found in the histologically processed tissue. In this way, a single comprehensive reconstruction of the architectonic boundaries relative to the electrophysiological recording sites was made. For horizontally sectioned tissue, we used a camera lucida to draw architectonic boundaries from series of tissue stained for myelin and Nissl, at a scale that matched an enlarged diagram of our electrode penetrations obtained during the mapping session. These drawings included the outline of the section, blood vessels, tissue artifacts, DY probes, and electrode tracks. We then artificially “unfolded” the series of sections similar to methods described previously by Van Essen and Maunsell (1980) and Krubitzer et al. (1995). By flattening and aligning the series of sections using DY probes, a cortical surface reconstruction

tion could be made and aligned with the photograph of electrode penetrations. This allowed us to produce a comprehensive reconstruction that included architectonic boundaries, sulcal landmarks, surface electrode penetrations, and the entire extent and angle of electrode penetrations made into the central and intraparietal sulcus. Final drawings and photomicrographs were generated and assembled using Adobe (San Jose, CA) Photoshop and Illustrator software packages.

## Results

The cortex on the postcentral gyrus and within the intraparietal sulcus of the cebus was mapped in detail using electrophysiological methods. Our primary goal was to examine the organization of the cortex in the expected location of cortical fields 2 and 5. The organization of areas 3b and 1 have been documented previously in cebus monkeys (Felleman et al., 1983) and, although recording sites in area 1 are illustrated, the organization of these fields will not be described here.

### Organization of area 2

Dense electrophysiological recordings indicate that cebus monkeys have a clearly defined area 2. This is surprising because this field does not appear to be present in any other New World monkey in which this region has been electrophysiologically explored [owl monkey (Merzenich et al., 1978), squirrel monkey (Sur et al., 1982), and titi monkey (Coq et al., 2004; Padberg et al., 2005)]. Despite the apparent independent emergence of area 2 in cebus monkey, aspects of its organization are remarkably similar to those of area 2 in Old World macaque monkeys. For instance, neurons in area 2 responded to stimulation of deep and cutaneous receptors, although in cebus monkeys, there is a greater proportion of recording sites in which neurons respond to cutaneous stimulation. When all recording sites in area 2 were considered together, a complete representation of the contralateral body was observed (Figs. 2, 3). Furthermore, like area 2 in macaque monkeys, area 2 in cebus monkeys is dominated by the representation of the hand and face. The body representation was readily distinguished from adjacent fields in that separate mediolateral progressions of recording sites yielded separate, parallel representations of the body in areas 1 and 2, and a parallel representation of the forelimb in the caudally located area 5 (Fig. 4). We did not attempt to map the cortex lateral to the hand representation, in the expected location of the face representation. However, a few recording sites at the lateral extreme of the recording grid did result in receptive fields located in the snout and chin (Figs. 2, 3), suggesting that area 2 extends further laterally.

Within area 2, the representations of the foot and toes/hindlimb were located most medially. In one case in which the electrode angle was optimal for recording neurons in layer IV, numerous recordings were made on the medial wall, and a large representation of the prehensile tail was observed (Fig. 2). In another case, representations of the anogenital skin were observed lateral to the toe representations (Fig. 3). The trunk was represented lateral to the hindlimb and toes and occupied relatively less cortical territory than the trunk representation in area 1. Lateral to the trunk representation was that of the forelimb, and lateral to this were the representations of the wrist and elbow, followed by portions of the hand representation. A relatively large portion of area 2 lateral to the hand and wrist representations was occupied by the representations of individual digits (Figs. 2, 3). The ulnar digit representation was located medially, and the radial digits more laterally. Both individual and multiple digit representations were observed at recording sites in area 2. Receptive field sizes observed for neurons in area 2 were typically larger

than those in area 1, although this was not quantitatively assessed. At two sites neurons in area 2 had bilateral receptive fields (Fig. 5C). In regions of high recording site density, and particularly in the forelimb representations, the electrophysiological borders of area 2 were identified by a reversal in a rostrocaudal progression of receptive fields across cortical field boundaries (Fig. 5B).

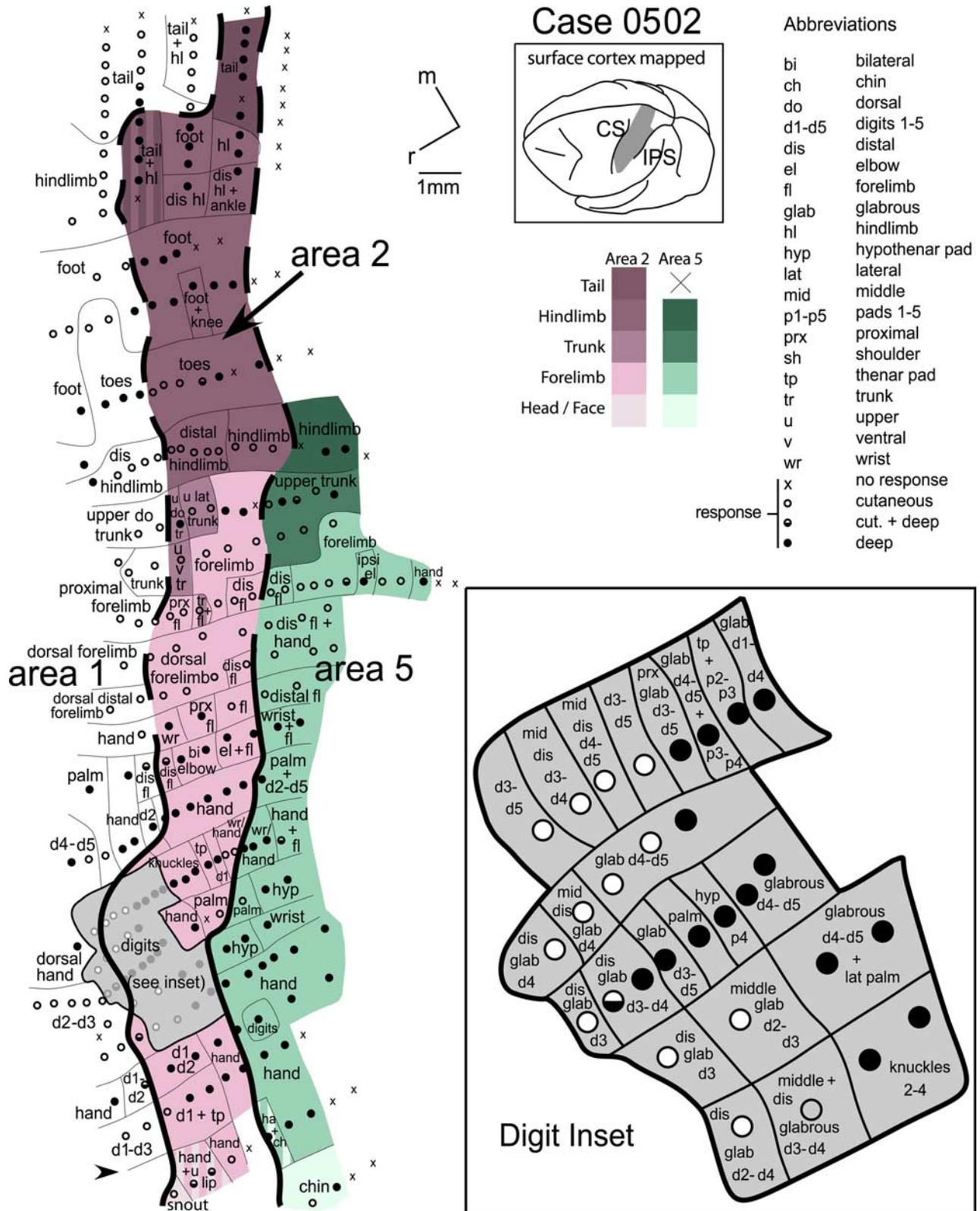
In cortex that has been flattened and cut tangentially, area 2 is moderately myelinated, and can be distinguished from the rostrally located area 1, which is lightly myelinated. In brains that were sectioned horizontally and stained for Nissl, area 2 appears more homogeneous than areas 3b and 1, but possess a moderately packed and wide layer IV (Fig. 6).

### Organization of area 5

Although single-unit recording experiments and limited multi-unit recordings have been performed in area 5 of macaque monkeys (Mountcastle et al., 1975; Pons et al., 1985; Ferraina and Bianchi, 1994; Lacquaniti et al., 1995; Snyder et al., 1997; Taoka et al., 2000; Debowy et al., 2001) (for review see Kalaska, 1996; Wise et al., 1997; Iwamura, 2000), the present data allow the most comprehensive description of the topographic organization of this area in any primate to date.

Neurons in area 5 responded to stimulation of deep or cutaneous receptors on the contralateral hand, forelimb, and shoulder, and in a few instances, responded to both cutaneous and deep stimulation (Figs. 2, 3). The most striking feature of area 5 is that it is dominated by the representation of the forelimb and hand, with very little space devoted to other body parts. Indeed, in the case in which the mediolateral extent of the IPS was examined most extensively (Fig. 3, R0503), neurons at all but five recording sites in area 5 responded exclusively to stimulation of the digits, hand, or portions of the forelimb (the five remaining sites had receptive fields on the upper trunk and/or forelimb). In the other case illustrated (Fig. 2, R0502) a small representation of the hindlimb was also found, and was near the medial limit of the field.

The topography of area 5 was less precise than that of area 2, but generally the proximal forelimb and adjacent trunk were represented medial to the distal forelimb and hand (Figs. 2, 3). In one case (R0502), the representations of the hand and forelimb were present across a large mediolateral extent of area 5, and hand representations were sometimes located between forelimb representations. At one recording site, neurons were responsive to stimulation of the contralateral wrist and ipsilateral elbow (Figs. 2, 5C), an observation that suggests either a close apposition of neuronal populations representing different body parts or non-topographic convergence of inputs. In this same case, a large representation of the hand was observed laterally in the field, and lateral to this was the representation of the chin (Fig. 2). In a second case (R0503), the representations of the wrist, elbow, and distal and proximal forelimb were found in multiple locations at the medial portions of area 5, and the representation of the digits and hand were represented lateral to this (Fig. 3). Finally, in a third animal (R0501) (data not shown), a representation of the distal forelimb was located among representations of proximal forelimb, hand, wrist, and elbow. In this case, several sites lateral to the elbow and ventral forelimb representation contained neurons that were unresponsive to any of the stimuli we used. However, moving more laterally, near the tip of the IPS, representations of the forelimb, hand, and trunk were again observed, followed by the representations of the digits and glabrous hand. There were a few sites in which neurons responded to the lips, face, neck, and proximal forelimb. In summary, although a mediolateral



**Figure 2.** Electrophysiological map of case R0502. Most recording sites were located on the postcentral gyrus, one penetration was made into the IPS, and several penetrations were made along the cortical medial wall of the hemisphere. The inset at the top right illustrates the region of the cortex that was explored. In this case, neurons within area 1 responded predominantly to stimulation of cutaneous receptors (open circles) on the contralateral body, although several sites contained neurons that responded to stimulation of deep receptors (filled circles), on the contralateral body. Neurons in area 2 responded to stimulation of cutaneous or deep receptors of the contralateral body and a few sites had neurons with bilateral receptive fields. Neurons in area 5 responded mostly to stimulation of deep receptors on the contralateral body, although at a few sites neurons responded to stimulation of cutaneous receptors. In this case, area 2 contained a nearly complete representation of the contralateral body with a mediolateral progression from tail to hand (maroon and pink shading). In contrast, area 5 was dominated by the representations of portions of the forelimb and hand (light green) with neurons at only a few sites having receptive fields on other body parts such as the hindlimb and upper trunk medially (dark green), and the cheek and chin laterally (very light green). Hatched regions depict sites in which neurons responded to stimulation of more than one body part. Solid lines mark architectonic boundaries, dashed lines mark approximate boundaries. Arrowhead depicts location of hand/face border. m, Medial; r, rostral; CS, central sulcus.

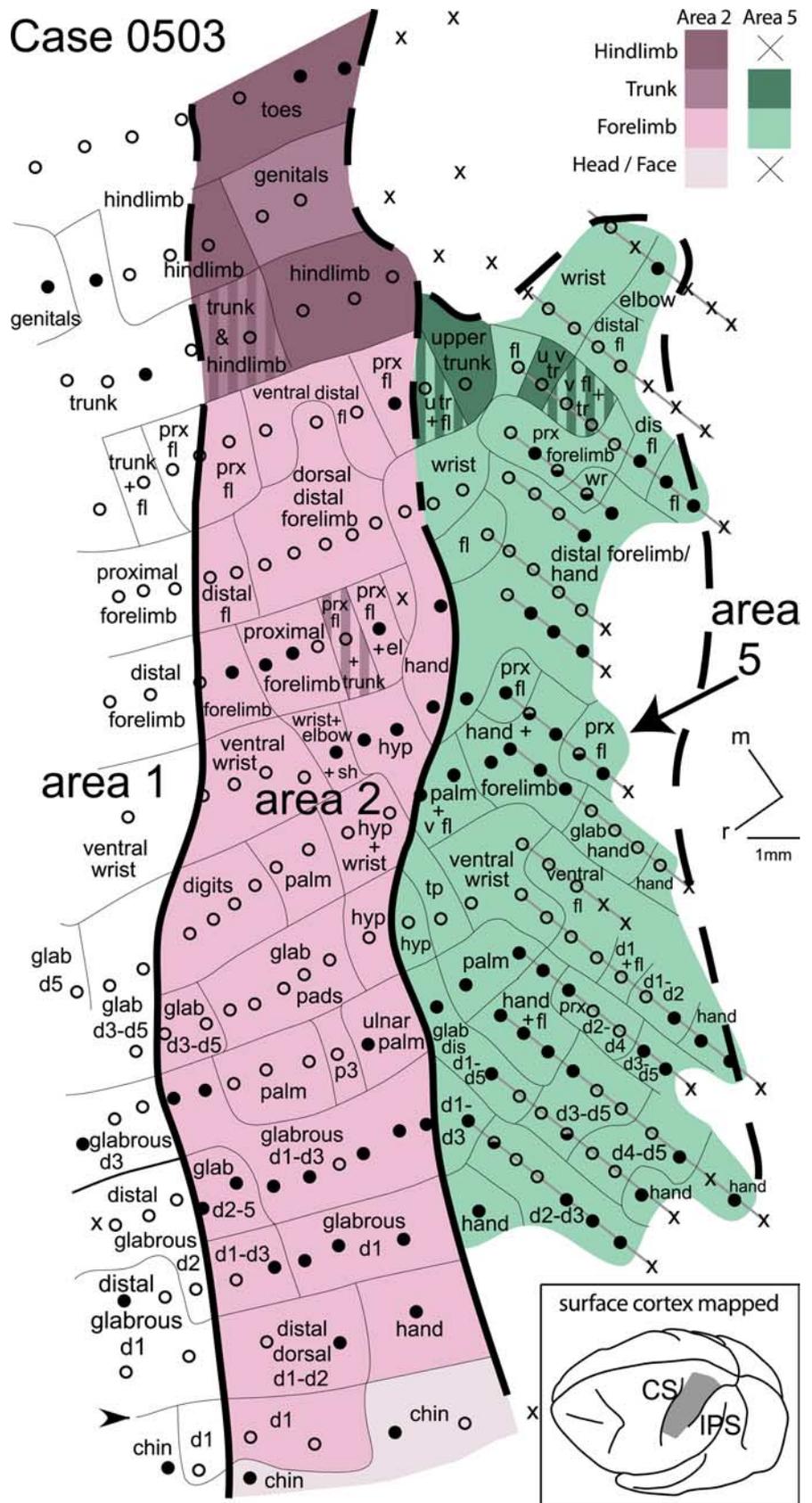
topography could be distinguished to some extent, it was less precise compared with the topography observed in areas 3b, 1, and 2, and was a mosaic-like representation that was variable between individuals. Receptive fields for neurons in area 5 were, on average, much larger than for neurons in areas 1 and 2 (Fig. 5A), and often occupied large portions of the palm, or a few adjacent digits (Fig. 4C). In few instances, receptive fields were limited to a single digit. Only one recording site in area 5 in one animal had neurons with a bilateral receptive field.

Area 5 was observed to stain moderately for myelin in cortex that was cut tangentially, and occupied most of the rostrolateral portion of the upper bank of the IPS. In horizontally sectioned cortex that was stained for Nissl substance, layers IV and VI in area 5 had more densely packed neurons compared with those in the same layers in area 2 (Fig. 6). The caudal boundary of area 5 with adjacent intraparietal sulcus areas was sometimes difficult to identify, but where possible, was determined by a decrease in the density of cells in layer IV and lighter myelination (Rosa et al., 1993).

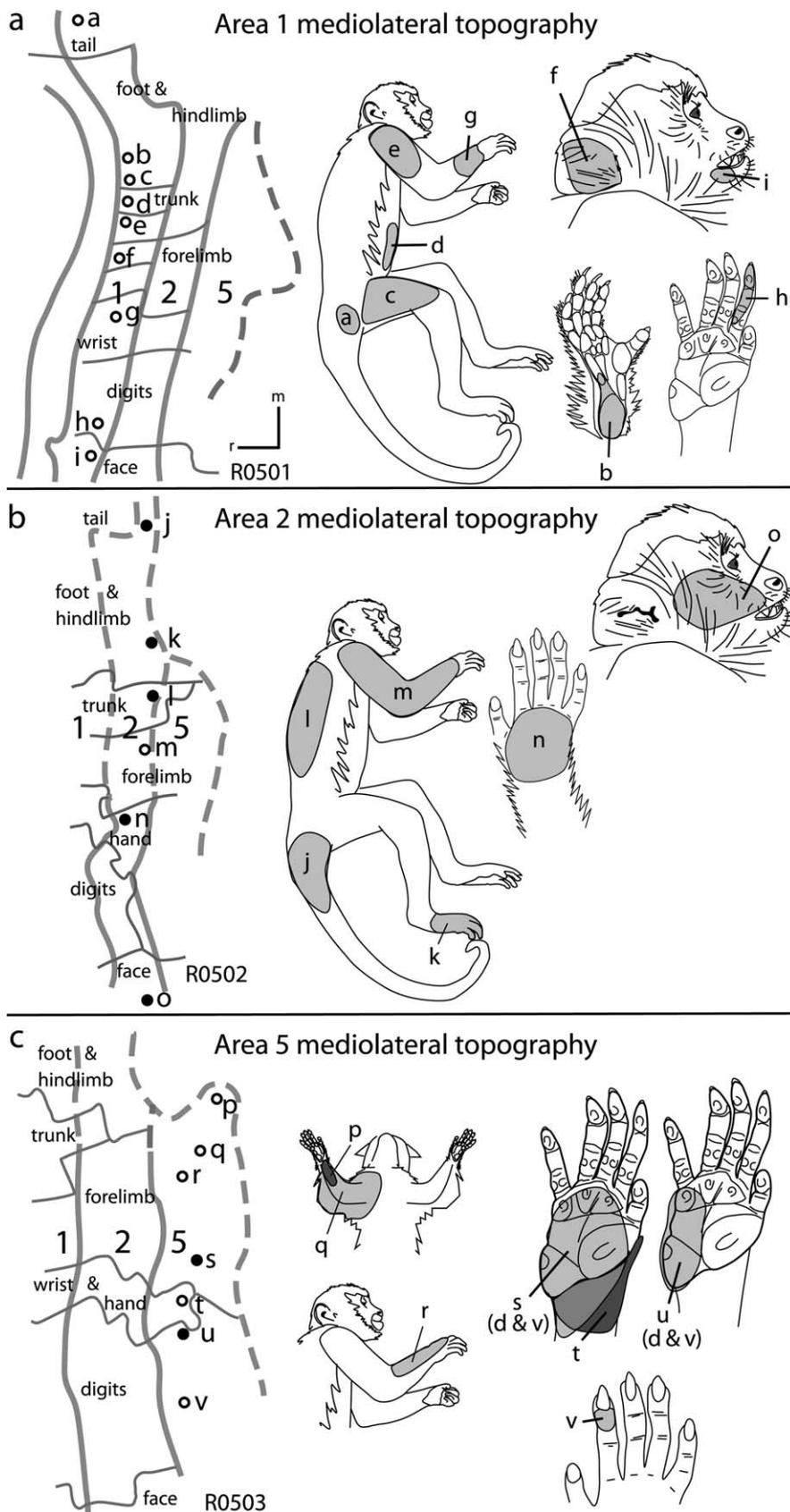
Results from the present investigation indicate that, like macaque monkeys, parietal cortex in cebus monkeys contains a cortical area 2 that is similar in location and topographic organization to that of area 2 described in Old World macaque monkeys, but not to similar regions of cortex in other New World monkeys. Our complete description of area 5 in cebus monkeys indicates that it too is like that of similarly located regions in macaque monkeys. However, the present data extends previous studies in macaques by demonstrating an enormous representation of the forelimb and hand, and a variable, mosaic organization of area 5 that resembles that of motor cortex in primates, rather than somatosensory cortex.

**Discussion**

In this investigation we observed well differentiated areas 2 and 5 in the cebus monkey that are remarkably similar in organization to these fields in macaques, but are absent or poorly differentiated in other New World monkeys. Examination of cranial morphology of early primates (Fleagle, 1986; Fleagle and Simons, 1995) and comparative analysis indicate that these areas were not present in the common simian ancestor. Rather, areas 2 and 5 emerged independently in Old World macaques and New World cebus monkeys, and do not represent true homology, but latent homology (Hall, 2003; Rutishauser and Moline, 2005).



**Figure 3.** Electrophysiological map of case R0503. In this case, a number of electrode penetrations were made into the rostral bank of the IPS as well as on the post central gyrus. The organization of area 2 was similar to that of area 2 in other cases (Fig. 2). As in the other cases, area 5 was dominated by the representations of the forelimb, hand and digits. Conventions are as in previous figures.



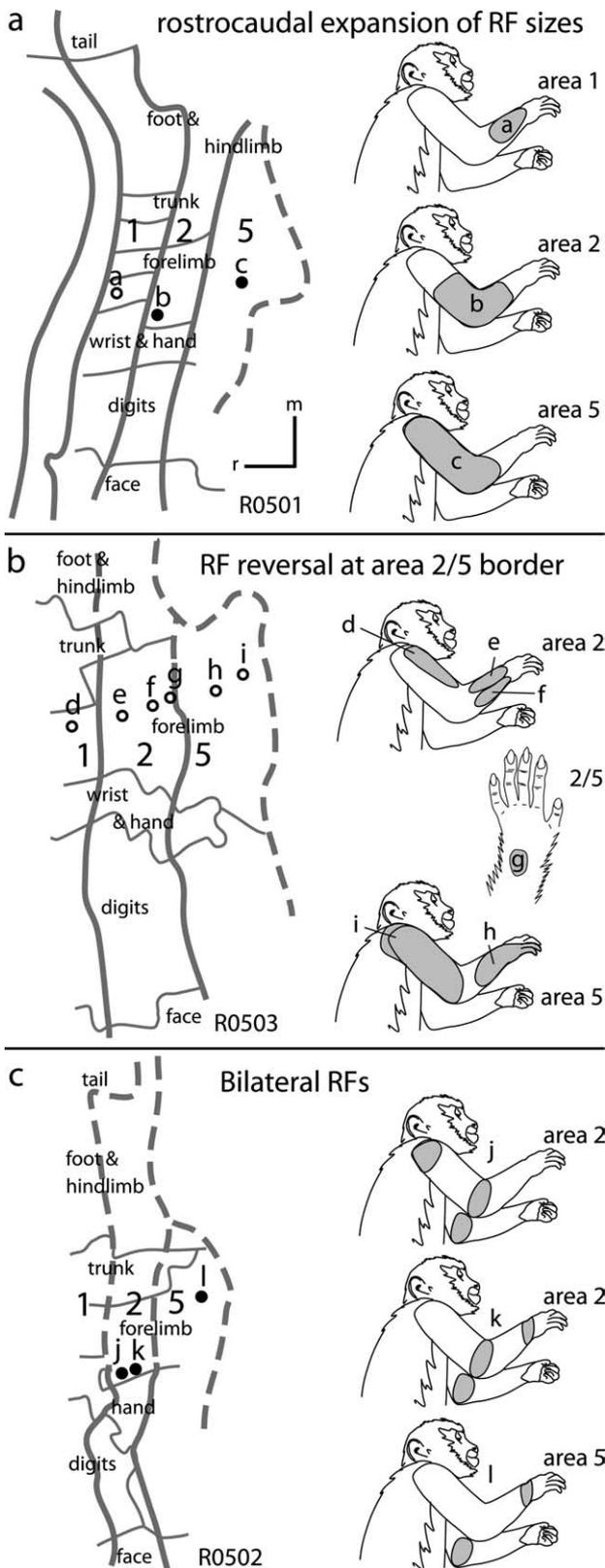
**Figure 4.** *a–c*, Mediolateral progressions of cortical representations in area 1 (*a*), area 2 (*b*), and area 5 (*c*). Lowercase letters in *a–c* mark electrode penetrations. Corresponding receptive fields (gray) for neurons at those sites are marked on drawings of the body to the right. Relatively precise topographic arrangement of body representations was observed mediolaterally in areas 1 (*a*) and 2 (*b*) in cases R0501 and R0502, respectively. Mediolateral arrangement of representations in area 5 (*c*) demonstrates that this field is dominated by the representations of the hand and forelimb. Conventions are as in previous figures.

**Areas 2 and 5**

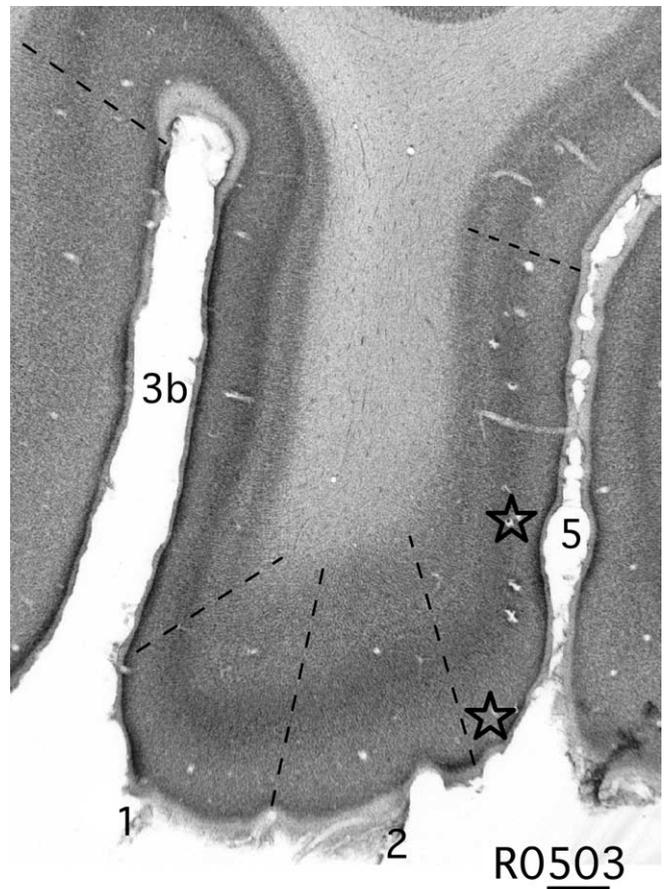
Although this is the first functional description of area 2 in any New World monkey, the organization of area 2 has been described previously in macaques (Pons et al., 1985) and is similar to area 2 in cebus. For example, area 2 in both species is dominated by the representation of the hand and face, and neurons respond to stimulation of deep (Hyvärinen and Poranen, 1978; Taoka et al., 1998, 2000; Iwamura et al., 2002) and cutaneous receptors (Ageronioti-Bélanger and Chapman, 1992). In macaques, neurons in area 2 respond to passive and active flexion of joints (Wolpaw, 1980; Gardner, 1988), are modulated during grasping (Debowy et al., 2001), and participate in the online correction of movement (Burbaud et al., 1991). Lesions that include area 2 affect the discrimination of object size, shape, and curvatures (Randolph and Semmes, 1974; Carlson, 1981; Murray and Mishkin, 1984). Noninvasive imaging studies demonstrate that area 2 is also present in humans (Fig. 7) (Moore et al., 2000). Although cortex caudal to area 1 has been explored in other New World monkeys, area 2 has not been found (for review, see Padberg et al., 2005) (Fig. 7).

We also observed a well developed area 5 in cebus monkeys. As in macaques, area 5 is dominated by the representation of the hand and forelimb (Pons et al., 1985; Taoka et al., 1998; Krubitzer and Disbrow, 2007). In cebus, area 5 contains a fractured map in which the forelimb and portions of the hand are represented multiple times, much like the organization of motor cortex, and this organization varies between individuals. Thus, portions of posterior parietal cortex that may include area 5 could be considered an elaboration of motor cortex in primates (Graziano et al., 2000; Stepniewska et al., 2005), and the variable organization of area 5 suggests that the ultimate organization may be use dependent.

This view is supported by single-unit studies in macaques that demonstrate that area 5 is involved in motor preparation (Burbaud et al., 1991; Snyder et al., 1997), in preshaping the hand before grasping an object (Debowy et al., 2001), and in generating body- or shoulder-centered coordinates for reaching (Ferraina and Bianchi, 1994; Lacquaniti et al., 1995; Iriki et al., 1996; Andersen et al., 1997; Graziano et al., 2000; Kalaska, 1996), which can be modified by experience (Iriki et al., 1996; Graziano et al., 2000). Lesions that include area 5 cause deficits in the coordination of arm and hand velocity, the postural relationship between the hand and wrist, and the coordination of the hand in shoulder-centered space (Rushworth et al., 1997). In



**Figure 5.** Rostrocaudal progressions or recording sites through areas 1, 2, and 5 demonstrating rerepresentation of body parts and reversals of receptive fields of neurons. *a–c*, Recording sites in areas 1, 2, and 5 and corresponding receptive fields for neurons at those sites (right) for the three monkeys used in these experiments. *a*, Rerepresentation of body parts in areas 1, 2, and 5. Note that the receptive field size is smaller for neurons in area 1 compared with areas 2 and 5. *b*, Progression of recording sites through the forelimb representations in areas 1, 2, and 5, indicating a reversal in receptive field progression at the area 2/5 boundary. *c*, Bilateral receptive fields in area 2 and ipsilateral receptive fields in area 5 in case R0502. Conventions are as in previous figures.

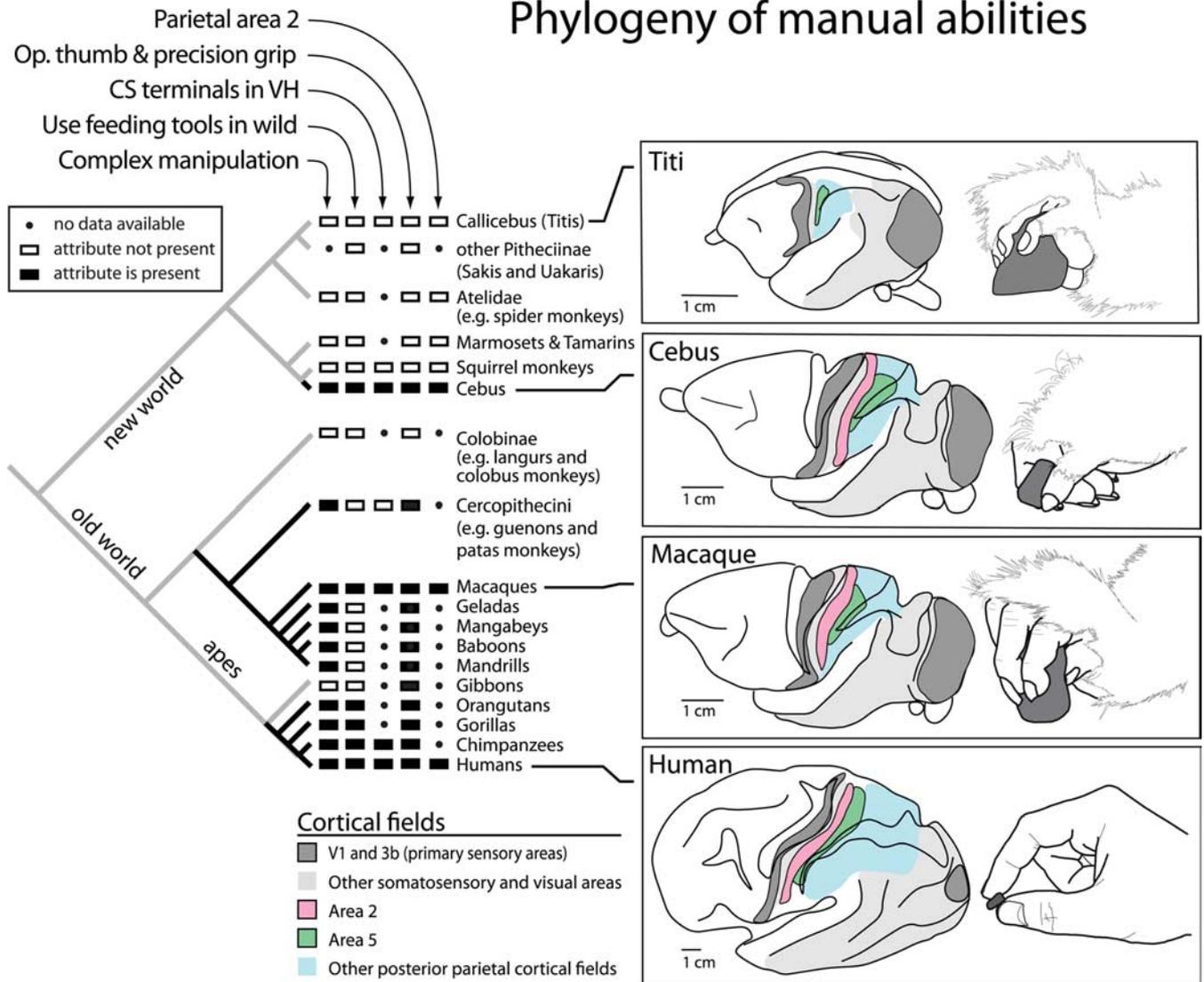


**Figure 6.** Lightfield digital image of a horizontally sectioned tissue that has been stained for Nissl substance in case R0503. Area 3b has a densely packed, thick layer IV, whereas area 1 has a wider, less-densely packed layer IV. Area 2 appears more homogeneous than areas 3b and 1 but possesses a moderately packed and wide layer IV. In area 5, layers IV and VI are more densely packed and darkly staining than those in area 2. The caudal (deep in the IPS) boundary of area 5 can be identified by a decrease in staining intensity in layer IV. Dashed lines indicate cytoarchitectonic borders. Scale bar, 1 mm. Stars denote electrode penetrations marked with DY. Conventions are as in previous figures.

humans, regions of cortex including area 5 appear to be involved in movement planning, and these regions are active during execution and visualization of movements of the forelimb (Astafiev et al., 2003; Hanakawa et al., 2003; Diedrichsen et al., 2004). Although area 5 has been described in New World titi monkeys, it is small and poorly developed (Padberg et al., 2005).

Together, the data indicate that areas 2 and 5 are present in cebus, macaques and humans. In macaques, these areas are involved in the active discrimination of object shape and size, motor planning associated with coordinating the hands and eyes, and in generating an internal coordinate system necessary for effectively interfacing the hands with the object to be explored. Although area 2 in macaques is linked to tactile discriminations made with the hands, it is interesting that, unlike area 5, area 2 contains a complete representation of the body. We focus on three factors that appear to contribute to the organization of area 2 (and area 5): hand morphology, use, and encephalization (see below). However, other factors, such as the need to match inputs from adjacent topographically organized fields to make context dependent comparisons (Kaas, 1997), and the need to correlate two spatial variables to specify the spatial location of a peripheral stimulus (Mountcastle, 2005b) also contribute to the organization of these fields. Thus, the organization of a cortical area is a

# Phylogeny of manual abilities



**Figure 7.** Left, Primate cladogram showing which primate taxa have the following characteristics related to manual control: complex manipulation (e.g., grasping food with one hand and peeling it with the other), use of feeding tools, corticospinal (CS) terminals in ventral horn (VH), opposable (or laterally opposable) thumb, and presence of parietal area 2. Filled box, Characteristic is present. Unfilled box: characteristic has been sufficiently tested and is absent. Right, Parietal areas and representative grasp postures traced from photographs in five primate species. The cladogram was adapted from van Schaik et al. (2003).

compromise between a number of competing factors that may not be individually optimized, or even intuitive, but considered together are optimal given the constraints imposed at different levels of organization from genes to molecules to brains and behaviors (Aflalo and Graziano, 2006).

### What primates do with their hands and what makes this possible

In addition to the manual abilities described above, some primates combine elements in novel ways to alter the environment, and selectively use external objects that have an optimal size, shape, mass, and elasticity to serve as an extension or augmentation of the body to perform a goal directed task. Whereas this ability is highly pronounced in humans, tool use has been observed in nature in only a few nonhuman primates. For example, wild chimpanzees and orangutans select and modify thin stems to “fish” at termite mounds, or use stones to crack open nuts (Goodall, 1964; van Schaik et al., 1996, 2003; Fox et al., 1999; Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, 2000). Inter-

estingly, tool use has also been observed in wild cebus monkeys (Fernandes, 1991; Frigaszy et al., 2004; Waga et al. 2006).

Such behaviors require particular bone, joint and muscle morphology that alters the mechanics of the hand, and increases the number of possible digit configurations. These behaviors also require neural control of the hand and digits. Changes in hand morphology (Napier and Napier, 1967; Rose, 1996) and corticospinal projections necessary for fine motor control of individual digits are both present in cebus monkeys (Heffner and Master-ton, 1983; Bortoff and Strick, 1993; Maier et al., 1997; Lemon and Griffiths, 2005). Tool use and other sophisticated manual behaviors also involve motor planning, and seem to depend crucially on the frontal areas to which parietal cortex projects (Preuss and Goldman-Rakic, 1991). Studies of the anatomical organization of the frontal cortex indicate that cebus monkeys have well developed motor and premotor areas, much like those of macaques (Allen et al. 1978; Tian and Lynch, 1996a,b; Dum and Strick 2005; Cruz-Rizzolo et al., 2006).

Our data indicate that some parietal areas involved in manual discrimination and motor planning associated with sophisticated hand use emerged independently in some primates. The remarkable similarity of areas 2 and 5 in two distantly related species begs the question of how this parallel organization evolved.

### The independent evolution of areas 2 and 5 in New and Old World monkeys

Given that natural selection acts on individuals and their behavior, rather than on a single morphological or neural structure in isolation, it is impossible to single out an individual event that leads to the independent emergence of similar neural characteristics. Rather, evolutionary changes involving skeletal, muscular and neural features proceed in parallel (Krubitzer and Kaas, 2005) and, thus, features of the body and brain are linked (Kaas, 1997). As noted above, alterations in skeletal morphology of the hand, the frontal lobe, and corticospinal projections have occurred independently in cebus and macaque monkeys. All of these factors contribute, at least in part, to the emergence and organization of areas 2 and 5.

Another feature that is similar in cebus monkeys and macaques, and that may contribute to the parallel emergence of areas 2 and 5, is the high degree of encephalization observed in both species (Gibson, 1986; Rilling and Insel, 1999), which leads to predictable changes in the cortical phenotype. For example, with the expansion of the cortical sheet, the relative amount of cortical territory devoted to primary areas tends to decrease, and new cortical areas are added. There may be an increase in the amount of cortex devoted to morphological and behavioral specializations, such as the expansion of auditory cortex linked to echolocation in dolphins (Marino, 2006; Marino et al., 2007), the emergence of motor areas associated with the elaboration of the larynx, tongue, and lips in humans (Murphy et al., 1997; Krubitzer and Kahn, 2003), and the expansion of the parietal cortex linked to visually mediated manual behaviors in humans (Rosa and Tweedale, 2005; Krubitzer and Disbrow, 2007). Thus, the dramatic magnification of the hand representation of area 5 in cebus and macaque monkeys is not surprising given the similar organizational changes that have emerged with encephalization and morphological specialization in other mammals.

We propose that the emergence and ultimate organization of areas 2 and 5 in cebus represents the inescapable outcome of a homologous and highly constrained developmental program for the formation of cortical fields that unravels in the context of similar extrinsic events including hand morphology and use.

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