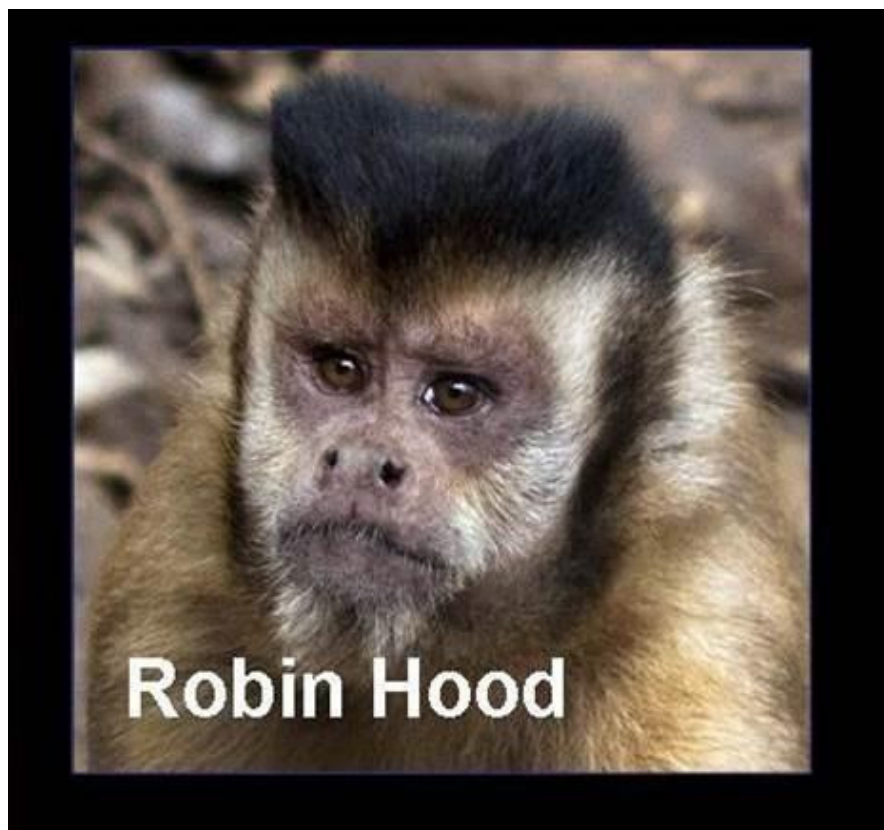




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## Even monkeys have personality and individual character that distinguishes them from each other

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We are used to consider the personality as a key feature of the human species. However, a study of the Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies of the National Research Council (CNR-Is tc), conducted in collaboration with the Free University of Berlin and published in the *Journal of Research in Personality*, shows that even the tufted capuchin, monkeys whose common ancestor with humans dates back to 35-40 million years ago, show distinctions with individual behaviors completely different in similar situations.

The capuchins of primates Center ISTC-CNR underwent 15 different tests. "In some, the monkeys were objects or new foods, in others had to find out where to look or how to get an award," says Elizabeth Visalberghi, primatologist ISTC-CNR. "The procedure is repeated after some time to assess whether the behavior was stable, it has identified 21 146 behavioral variables and personality traits."



The cebis are clearly different for most of the behaviors analyzed. "For example, for the male Sandokan, a bed sheet tied to two poles became a huge slide on which to play adventurously, while Vispo, another male of the same group, tried in every way to avoid it by walking as gently as possible" continues Elsa Addessi, researcher Istc-Cnr. "In another test, we measured how many times they could repeat the same action in order to get a reward and what happened in the case of bankruptcy. A very frustrating situation, where some capuchin monkeys continued to work hard, maybe trying other possible actions, while others have given up almost immediately. "

The differences highlighted, as for man, are largely independent of gender and age. "The study involved adults between 8 and 32 years (after 30 capuchin monkeys can be considered elderly) and the variables considered, only impulsivity decreased significantly with age! We have also shown that early experiences, especially having been raised in contact with man during the first few months of life, makes these monkeys more social interactions with researchers, "noted Jana Uher, a psychologist from the 'Free University' Berlin.

"The next step will be to compare our methodology 'objective', based on the study of behavior, with comments 'subjective', carried out by researchers who have been for years in contact with the monkeys," concludes Visalberghi.