



*Photo by Petr Kratochvil*

The bright and tiny sclerae of pygmy marmosets are thought to be associated with developing trust, enabling communication and cooperation in the species. This is being investigated by Dr. Waciewicz from the Center of Language Evolution Studies (CLES) at a zoo in Torun.

An earlier study, Waciewicz et al. (2022) explored the adaptive significance of human scleral brightness in the areas of age, health, attractiveness, trustworthiness and aggressiveness.

Fortunately, these findings have not led to a revival of dangerous cosmetic eye whitening procedures. Unfortunately, it remains unknown what effect the appearance of 'computer eyes' has on psychosocial dynamics. Given widespread and prolonged use of screens and prevalence of computer vision syndrome, as well as digital eye strain and dry eye, there will be continued investment to educate patients, control damage, and provide safe and effective products to urban and digitalised communities.

Pygmy marmosets do not have such problems.



## Of Scleral Brightness and Mini Marmosets

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### Resources:

Anbesu, E.W., Lema, A.K. Prevalence of computer vision syndrome: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Sci Rep* 13, 1801 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-28750-6>

Merhy, G., Akel, M. et al. (2023, January 19). Computer Vision Syndrome in Lebanese Male Adolescents: Correlates With Mental Health and Mediating Effect of Stress. *Psychiatrist.com* (Original Research). <https://www.psychiatrist.com/pcc/medical/medical-conditions/computer-vision-syndrome-lebanese-male-adolescents-correlates-with-mental-health-mediating-effect-stress/>

Research explores whether the eye influenced the development of language. [News-medical.net](https://www.news-medical.net).

Waciewicz, S., et al. (2022) The adaptive significance of human scleral brightness: an experimental study. *Scientific Reports*. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-24403-2>