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Title: Survival without cortex

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Abstract: The central nervous system did not evolve in a vacuum separate from the natural environment therefore it is only 'natural' to think that the circuits were optimized for naturalistic behaviors, such as avoiding predators, hunting/foraging, social interactions with conspecifics, sleeping, parental behaviors, etc. One could argue that some of these naturalistic behaviors should predate the great expansion of the neocortex since the ancestors who successfully moved on to contribute to the evolution had to find food and not become food.