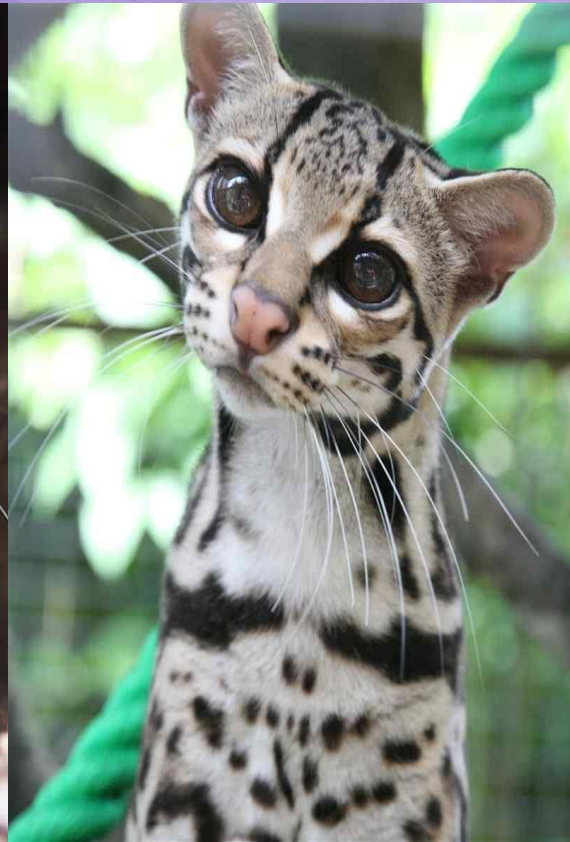


Cat



What are Margay Cats?

Margay, (*Leopardus wiedii*), also called tiger cat or tigrillo, or small cat that ranges from South through Central America and, rarely, into the extreme southern United States. Little is known about the habits of the margay. It lives in forests and presumably is nocturnal. It is largely arboreal and has specially adapted claws and feet that enable it to scamper up tree trunks and along branches with ease.

Common Name: Margay

Kingdom: Animal

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammal

Order: Carnivore

Family: Felidae

Genus: American Spotted Cats

**Scientific Name:
*Leopardus wiedii***

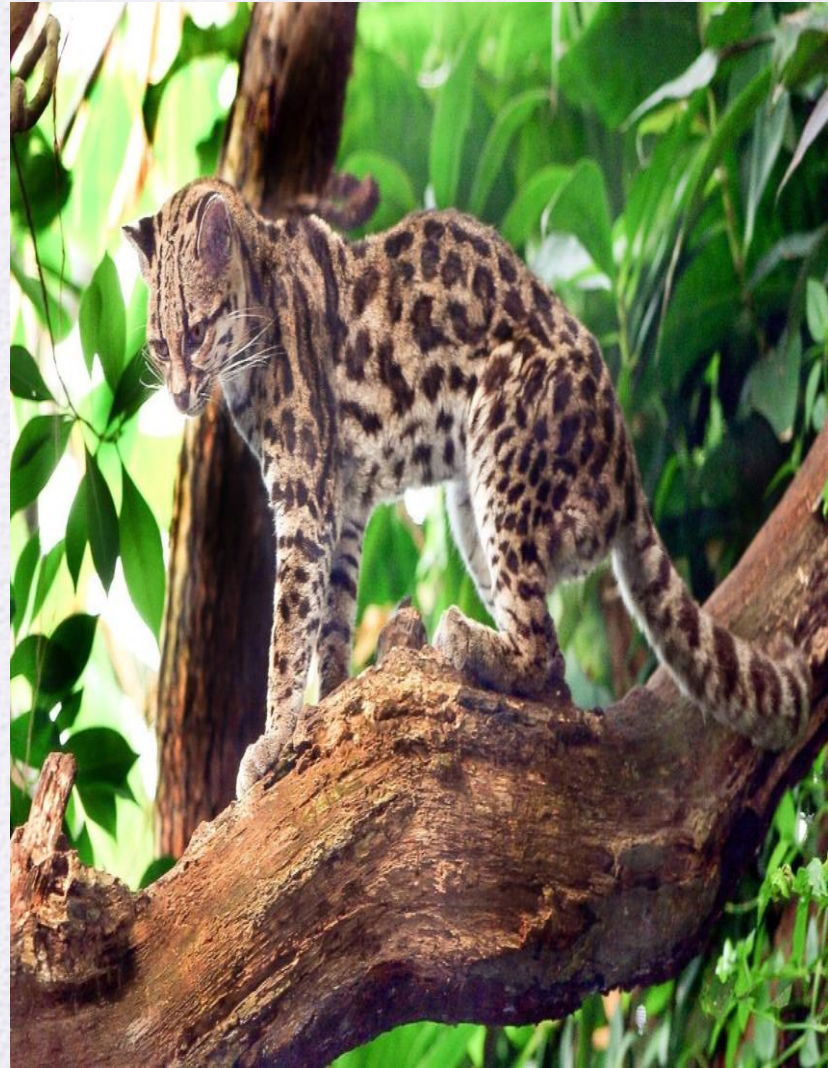


Size and Appearance

The margay is about two feet tall from feet to shoulders, and weighs about five to twelve pounds (2-5kg).

It has gray to golden-brown fur with black and brown spots.

The spots on its sides are often different shapes and are often black with a brown center. Its undersides are white.



Where do they live ?

The Margay is associated with forest habitat, both deciduous and evergreen. They have occasionally been spotted in shady cocoa or coffee plantations and riverine forests.

South and Central America

= Where margays live



What do they eat?

The primary diet of this cat consists of small arboreal mammals such as big-eared climbing rats, squirrels, possums, small birds, porcupines, marmosets, capuchins, three-toed sloths, birds and even fruits. Their terrestrial diet consists of various rats and cavies.



Life Cycle

After a gestation of approximately 76-84 days, females produce a litter of 1 kitten. They weigh 2.75-6 ounces (78-170grams) at birth and will open their eyes at around 2 weeks old. They are weaned around 2 months of age, and captive females reach sexual maturity around 6-10 months, although they may not reproduce for several months after that.



Margay Enemies

Humans are predators of the margay. They protect themselves by staying high up in a tree or staying with their group.



Interesting Facts

Of all of the felines, the Margay is most adapted for a true arboreal life. It is the only cat to possess the ability to rotate its hind legs 180°, enabling it to run head first down trees like squirrels. It can also hang from a branch by one hind foot!



References

<https://www.britannica.com/animal/margay>

<https://bigcatrescue.org/margay-facts/>



