

What is Clouded Tiger Cat?

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What are Tiger Cats?

- Also **known as the oncilla**, tiger cats are **small spotted cats** that quietly stalk **Central and South America**, perfectly adapted for **clambering in trees** and **hunting small prey**.
- They are **among the shyest** and **smallest wild cats in the Americas**, weighing between 1.5 to 3 kilograms (3.3 to 6.6 pounds), much **smaller than** most **domestic house cats**.
- **Until recently**, they were **split into two species**: the **northern tiger cat** (*Leopardus tigrinus*), and the **Atlantic Forest tiger cat** (*Leopardus guttulus*), along with a handful of subspecies.
 - The northern tiger cat is native to the savanna and shrublands of the Guiana Shield and central Brazil, while the Atlantic tiger cat lives further south in forested areas of central to southern Brazil, down through Paraguay and northeastern Argentina.
- Researchers recently concluded that the family includes a third species: the clouded tiger cat (*Leopardus pardinoides*).

About Clouded Tiger Cat

- It is a **new species of forest-dwelling tiger cat**.

- **Scientific Name:***Leopardus pardinoides*
 - **Geographic Distribution:** It is found in the **cloud forests** of the **southern Central American and Andean Mountain chains**, which stretch from **Costa Rica** through **Panama, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina**.
 - **Features:**
 - It is a **long-tailed** cat with **short-round ears**, weighing 2.27 kg.
 - The new species has a remarkably **margay-looking head, which has** a nice **dense soft fur** of a rich reddish/orangish/grayish-yellow background color adorned with irregularly shaped medium-large 'cloudy' rosettes that are strongly marked and often coalesce.
 - Distinctively, it has **only one pair of mammae/teats**.
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Q1: What is Savanna vegetation?

It is a vegetation type that grows under hot, seasonally dry climatic conditions and is characterized by an open tree canopy (i.e., scattered trees) above a continuous tall grass understory (the vegetation layer between the forest canopy and the ground). The largest areas of savanna are found in Africa, South America, Australia and India etc.

Source: [Explained: Why this new tiger cat species has the risk of an uncertain future](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/clouded-tiger-cat/>

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