


# Pantanal Cat

Pantanal Cat <sup>[1]</sup>	
Conservation status	
<i>Not evaluated</i> (IUCN 3.1)	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Felidae
Genus:	<i>Leopardus</i>
Species:	<i><b>L. braccatus</b></i>
Binomial name	
<i><b>Leopardus braccatus</b></i> Cope, 1889	
	
crude <i>Leopardus braccatus</i> range map	

The **Pantanal Cat** (*Leopardus braccatus*) is a small feline of far south-eastern and central Brazil, Paraguay, northern Argentina and Uruguay. It is named after the Pantanal wetlands in central South America, but mainly occurs in grassland, shrubland, savannas and deciduous forests.<sup>[2]</sup> It has traditionally been treated as a subspecies of the larger Colocolo, but was split primarily based on differences in pelage colour/pattern and cranial measurements.<sup>[2]</sup> This split is not supported by genetic work,<sup>[3][4]</sup> leading some authorities to maintain that it is a subspecies of the Colocolo.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Hybrids between the Pantanal Cat and *Oncilla* are known from Brazil.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Subspecies

When recognized as a species separate from the Colocolo, there are two subspecies of the Pantanal Cat:<sup>[1]</sup>

- *Leopardus braccatus braccatus* (Cope, 1889) – central Brazil, through Paraguay, to northern Argentina.<sup>[5]</sup>
- *Leopardus braccatus munoai* (Ximenez, 1961) – extreme southern Brazil and Uruguay.<sup>[5]</sup>

*L. b. braccatus* is almost entirely rusty-brown with faint dark brown spots on the flanks, a whitish throat, two dark lines on each cheek, black stripes on the legs and chest, and black feet and tail-tip. *L. b. munoai* is quite similar, but paler, more yellowish, its flank spots are browner and more distinct, the feet are only black on the soles, and the distal part of the tail has several discontinuous rings but only a narrow black tip.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

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- [2] Garcia-Perea, R. (1994). *The pampas cat group (Genus Lynchailurus Severertsov 1858) (Carnivora: Felidae), A systematic and biogeographic review.* (<http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/bitstream/2246/4992/1/N3096.pdf>) American Museum Novitates 3096: 1-35.
- [3] Johnson, Slattery, Erizirik, Kim, Raymond, Bonacic, Cambre, Crawshaw, Nunes, Seuánez, Moreira, Seymour, Simon, Swanson, & O'Brien (1999). *Disparate phylogeographic patterns of molecular genetic variation in four closely related South American small cat species.* ([http://www.pucrs.br/fabio/genoma/index\\_arquivos/artigos\\_eduardo/Small\\_Neotropical\\_cats.PDF](http://www.pucrs.br/fabio/genoma/index_arquivos/artigos_eduardo/Small_Neotropical_cats.PDF)) Molecular Ecology 8: S79–94
- [4] Macdonald, D., & Loveridge, A., eds. (2010). *The Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids.* Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-923445-5
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- [6] Pereira, J., Lucherini, M., de Oliveira, T., Eizirik, E., Acosta, G., Leite-Pitman, R. (2008). "*Leopardus colocolo*" (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/15309>). *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.4.* International Union for Conservation of Nature. . Retrieved 5 January 2011.

## External links

- photo of a pantanal cat (<http://www.cbu.edu/~aross/biodept/MIRT/MIRT-2004/Emas-01-Cyntia-Sally.JPG>)

# Article Sources and Contributors

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