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Small cats—like the marbled cat below—are skilled at avoiding notice. But they're beginning to draw the attention of conservationists and researchers.

By Christine Dell'Amore  
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### On the Cover

Beer and other alcoholic beverages are "important to human culture" and have been for thousands of years, says biomolecular archaeologist Patrick McGovern. Photo by Brian Finke

### Corrections and Clarifications

Go to [ngm.com/corrections](http://ngm.com/corrections).

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Alcohol is one of the most universally produced and enjoyed substances in history, and it has helped shape who we are.

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By Cynthia Gorney  
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Story and Photographs by Yann Gross