



Betta and photo by Suchada Chatthong



Betta and photo by Ernie Perez

Category: Crowntail

The scope of this standard is limited to judging male Crowntail Bettas. Female Crowntails are judged in the standard color classes for their respective color (and fin) type.

Description:

Crowntails are a type of “fringe-finned” domestic betta (*Betta splendens*) having fin rays that extend significantly beyond the webbed portion of the fins. The supporting webbing between the fin rays is reduced and the rays protrude past the edges of the fin membrane. The result is a scalloped appearance (see Chapter 5: General Standards) or the appearance of hyper-extended rays as seen in Crowntails where the webbing is substantially reduced.

A Crowntail is not the same as a “combtail” or just another fringe-finned betta. It must be emphasized that fringed-fin bettas can and should be shown in other color classes where the extended rays ARE NOT counted against them.

Definition:

For the purposes of judging and placement in this class, Crowntails shall be defined as bettas exhibiting at least 33% reduction in webbing versus ray length in EACH of the three primary fins (caudal, anal and dorsal). This requirement must be demonstrated in all three primary fins but does NOT need to be exhibited between ALL rays to meet the minimum requirement to be classified as a Crowntail Betta.

Illustration:

The following picture shows the fulfillment of the basic requirements. In this fish, the ventral fins also demonstrate a >50% reduction of the webbing.

For each fin, the lines with arrows are exactly the same length. The line from the base of the fin to the end of the webbed material is the same length as the line immediately after it demonstrating >50% reduction in webbed material. In the case of the dorsal fin and the caudal fin, the extended portion of the ray is more than 2X the length of the portion surrounded by the webbed section.

The following picture shows a fish with extended rays that cannot be classified as a Crowntail. Reduction of the fin membrane is not sufficient in any primary fin. A fish with this slight amount of webbing reduction should be exhibited in a class other than Crowntail where extended rays do not count against it other than the fact that it is not similar in all three primary fins.



Photo by Jeff Hiller

Crowntail Types:

The following illustration shows variations of webbing reduction commonly exhibited by Crowntails.

Types of Crowntail Caudal Ray extensions**Double Ray****Single Ray****Cross Ray**

Drawing by Gene Lucas

Double Ray – webbing is reduced at two levels: one between a pair of rays and the other, more profoundly, between two ray branches. Breeders put a premium on double-ray and 4-ray extension Crowntails. These traits are to be regarded as neutral and are not to be pointed above single ray extended Crowntails. 4-ray and even 8-ray extensions are less common and the effect is almost always confined to the caudal fin only.



4-ray Crowntail, Betta and photo by Artitaya Boottho

Single Ray – web margins are, ideally, uniform and webbing reduction is equal between primary rays and rays with branches.

Cross Ray – manifested by pairs of ray extensions that curve over each other.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDGING CROWNTAILS:**Desirable Traits for Crowntails:**

- 1) 33% reduction in webbing material for each primary fin is a minimum. 50% reduction in webbing material in all three primary fins is ideal.
- 2) Ray extensions to be uniform in balance, length and spacing (symmetrical).
- 3) Double and 4-ray extensions in the dorsal and anal fins to match caudal extensions.

Undesirable Traits for Crowntails:

- 1) Less than 33% reduction in webbing material in 2 or all 3 primary fins is a **DISQUALIFYING FAULT**.
- 2) Less than 33% reduction in 1 primary fin is a **SEVERE** fault.
- 3) Ray extensions of different lengths are **MINOR** faults unless the rays are in an even, repeating pattern.
- 4) Random Rays, for example, single protruding rays in a double-ray or 4-ray Crowntail, should not be regarded more than a **MINOR** fault and ignored if there is only a single protruding ray.
- 5) Curled or bent ray extensions are each a **MINOR** fault.
- 6) Non-symmetrical spaces between ray extensions are each a **MINOR** fault.

Beyond the previous “Desirable Traits”, the General Standards outlined in Chapter 5 apply to Crowntails. Fin Curl, ideal 180° spread for caudal fin, minimum size requirement, etc., are covered in the General Standards. Also color traits outlined in the Special Standards apply to Crowntails.

Fish that qualify as Crowntails, as defined in this Standard, **MUST** be shown as Crowntails at an IBC sanctioned International show.