IBC EXHIBITION STANDARDS
BOOK 2
WILD BETTA SPECIES

2022-2023 Show Season

These IBC Exhibition Standards are made available to the public for promotion of the betta hobby and encouragement in developing show fish. They are not to be altered.

The IBC Standards are updated annually. Changes just made for the season are marked in red.

Please check on the ibcbettas.org website each show year for new copies of the Standards. New versions are usually released July/August each year.

If you would like to make suggestions for changes, please email the specifics to the IBC Judging Chair (jbchair@ibcbettas.org).

DEDICATION: This version of the Standards is dedicated to Dr. Gene Lucas, without whom we would not have the Betta hobby that we have today. Classification and Description:

This newest update clears up some of the issues with the previous version. First of all the Marble-Multicolor standards were entirely changed. You should find it easier to read this time. There was also updating on the Grizzled standard as well as all of the measurements were switched to metric. A special thanks and credit to the following individuals Dominikus Ferdinand, Daniel Indarta, Ferry Rabito Luhur, Shalan Nasha, Bobby Chua, Raja Karunanethi, Jimmy Nallas, Kenny , Mulyadi and Hiroki Ishizu. Also thanks to the current Judging Board Daniel Indarta, Hiroki Ishizu, Jamie King, Lee Yao Tsung, Joty Atmadjaja, Kurt Bihlmayer, Shalan Nasha, Mulyadi and Luis Navarro. Also a special thanks to Aurelia Ogles who is always there when we need help and is always offering advice.

This was the previous introduction on the last version.

This version of the Standards comes from a lot of hard work from some of the most dedicated people in the Betta Hobby, the IBC Judging Board. The Judging Board members were Peter DeSouza, Aurelia Ogles, Jamie King, Hiroki Ishizu, Joty Atmadjaja, Kurt Bihlmayer, Mike Cuaresma, Shalan Nasha, Wind Wang, Ezekiel Lyon Goh, Mulyadi and Luis Navarro. I also would like to thank Kenny Seaw, Ezekiel Lyon Goh, Steven Tran and many others who contributed the photographs added to this document. This new version is a complete overhaul of the previous Standard and puts all of the information as well as the changes from the previous version in an easy to read format. We are also in the process of introducing new diagrams to make the Standards easier to understand. One of the first things you might notice is a comprehensive table of contents allowing you to find anything easily. We have also added examples to clarify concepts when needed, the best example is the Multicolor versus Marble pages. We are also experimenting with a change in the Wilds Standard to make them more like the show Bettas you might be used to. Other changes include the addition of Dragon, Alien, and other Standards people have been asking for.

Is this work complete? Never, the Standards will continue to change and this document will change with them. What did not make it to press time were a group of planned diagrams to illustrate the ideal forms of some of the various classes. Those diagrams will make it into the next version which will come out next July, 2022. If you have any ideas or would like to work on new Standards let the Judging Board know so that you may be included in the next working group.

Gerald Griffin

Judging Board Chair

Note from the Judging Board:

Not all Bettas fit clearly defined categories. It is important to note that if you find one of these Bettas it still has to be judged and is to be judged to the best of the Judges ability within the standards as closely as possible. Remember that all General Faults still apply. Example, a Doubletail Veiltail would be judged against Doubletails unless it was entered in Variations. If judged in Doubletail it would be at a disadvantage because it would be judged on the Halfmoon Doubletail Standard. In Variations it would be Judged based on the what a Doubletail Veiltail should look like and all General Faults would apply. If for some reason it came up in competition with other Bettas for BOV or BOS then it would be judged again using the Halfmoon Doubletail Standard.

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THE WILDS STANDARD

Also known as “Wild Bettas”, there are over 70 species of Wild Bettas, the origin of many improved varieties. As a side note, hybrid and selective breed are not included in the wild betta standards, for example, Betta splendens Fighting Stock are regarded as artificially produced fighting fish.

EMPHASIS OF JUDGING:

The degree to which the entries represent a top condition adult fish of the “species” to which they belong. There are differences in the judging method and criteria between wilds and improved Betta varieties in show. Wilds have characteristics different from the cultivated fighting fish. In addition, on the grounds of their complex biodiversity, it is difficult to unify rules for the Judging of Wild Betta Species.

- First, the Judge must be able to check the species name on the label is correct. Then check the condition of the entry and judging the pair as a male and female.
- Focus on judging the coloration, fins and things like health and condition of male and female, including if they are a suitable breeding pair.
- Descriptions of many of the species are provided in an IBC Species Maintenance Committee website as well as Book 2 the Wild Betta Species Judging Standard.
- Unlike show stock, they are usually stressed in bowls, and expect difficulty in viewing. For that reason, it is permitted to exercise extraordinary care for these fish in this case. Please read the following explanation for details.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

All entries must be shown as single entries, pairs or trios based on the show classification lists. There may be two or more classes: Bubblenesters and Mouthbrooders.

- Refer to the species descriptions found in the Species Maintenance Committee booklet if unsure of the species of any entry.
- Hybrids are prohibited from any class falling under this group.
- All entry show bowls must be labeled, noting the presumed 'species' or variety of the entry, taken from the exhibition entry form. See Type listings for acceptable alternate labels.
- All entries will be given covered show bowls since many are prone to jump. Host clubs should provide larger (1 gallon) bowls for the larger type fish. This is for the protection of the fish, but is not a disqualification item if the bowls are not provided.

GUIDELINES FOR PRPARATION AND ENTERING THE SHOW

1. When registering fish, participants must inform the show committee of the identity of the wild betta species. (Filled out appropriately on the show form.)
2. The show chair will provide a label containing the species name to be affixed to the show jar/aquarium tank.
3. Participants may prepare all the equipment/accessories to be placed in the jar/tank and the accessories (Ketapang leaves/water plants, etc.) by themselves.
4. Participants must use the container provided by the show committee.
5. The show will prepare containers following fish size and same size container for each of same species. All wild Betta entries will be given covered show containers since many species are prone to jump.
6. The entered specimens must be in same tank together.
7. Participants may use their own water.
8. Participants may not use any other colored water except natural black water.
9. Participants must ensure that the condition of the water and the equipment used does not hinder or make it difficult for the judges to see and make judgments. (Avoid too dark water or excessive accessories)

9. Participants must ensure that the condition of the water and the equipment used does not hinder or make it difficult for the judges to see and make judgments. (Avoid too dark water or excessive accessories)

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

1. Ensure the species of wild betta is correct in accordance with the class lists.
2. Ensure the species of wild betta is correct and matches the label provided.
3. Ensure that the wild bettas are of the appropriate species.
4. Judges may not put their hands into the container. If needed, to see the hidden fish, gently use tools to move the contents so as not to surprise the fish.
5. The screen should not be opened except between species in the same group.
6. Check the suitability of the fish with general standards (color, size, condition, compatibility)
7. The judge may use the tools needed to make an assessment. (flashlight / measuring instrument, flaring stick etc.)

GENERAL STANDARD GUIDELINES

The ideal Wild Betta pair should show breeding activity and vibrant colors even during shows. Size of the male should be similar or slightly larger than the female. Avoid showing pairs with males being smaller than the females. Males, being the showy counterpart, should also be perfect in condition such as no torn and broken fins.

Pair sizing

1. Female's size is less than 2/3 but larger than 1/2 of male. (Major fault)
2. Female's size is less than 1/2 of the male. (Severe fault)
3. Male's size is smaller than the female but more than 3/4. (Severe fault)
4. Male's size is smaller than 3/4 of female. (Disqualify)

Coloration

1. Male's coloration is vibrant but not displaying full breeding colors. (Slight fault)
2. Male's coloration is present but not vibrant. (Minor fault)
3. Male's coloration is poor and fading. (Major fault)
4. Female's coloration is poor and fading. (Minor fault)

Pair compatibility

1. Pair compatibility is very good and stays together. But no sign of breeding behavior. (Slight fault)
2. Both male and female swims separately. But female responds to male's behavior (i.e., female responds to male's flaring). (Minor fault)
3. Male and female swims separately and indifferent to each other. (Major fault)
4. Male showing excessive aggressiveness to the female, causing the female to hide from the male. (Severe fault)
5. Female showing excessive aggressiveness to the male, causing the male to hide from the female. (Disqualify)

Finnage Condition

1. Female has slight nips (1-2) in pectoral fin or ventral fin. (Slight fault)
2. Female has some nips (3-4) in pectoral fin or ventral fin. (Minor fault)
3. Female has broken rays (1-2) in 1 unpaired fin. (Minor fault)
4. Female has some broken rays (3-4) in 1 unpaired fin. (Major fault)
5. Female has some broken rays in 2 unpaired fins. (Severe fault)
6. Female has broken rays in every fin. (Disqualify)
7. Male has slight nips (1-2) in pectoral or ventral fin. (Minor fault)
8. Male has some nips (3-4) in pectoral or ventral fin. (Major fault)
9. Male has broken rays (1-2) in 1 unpaired fin. (Major fault)
10. Male has broken rays (3-4) in 1 unpaired fin. (Severe fault)
11. Male has broken rays in 2 unpaired fins. (Disqualify)
12. Male has broken rays in every fin. (Disqualify)

Species

1. Male is slightly smaller but larger than 3/4 of the ideal size of the species. (Major fault)
2. Male is smaller than 3/4 of ideal species size but larger than 1/2. (Severe fault)
3. Male is smaller than 1/2 of ideal species size. (Disqualify)
4. Wrong species. (Disqualify)
5. No species label. (Disqualify)
6. Hybrid. (Disqualify)
7. Betta splendens Fighting Stock. (Disqualify)

NOTES ABOUT THE WILD BETTA SPECIES STANDARD

The Wilds Standards may be one of the hardest to understand because so many Betta Judges have not had any experience with Wild Betta Species or a very limited exposure to a few species. As I started work on the new standards I noticed that the WILD BETTA SPECIES STANDARD that I wrote so many years ago was never updated. It wasn't long before we come across a standard that is being used in Area 6 for the Splendens complex. After some discussion we decided that we would try it out and if the feedback was positive we would eventually write standards like this for all of the Betta Species Complexes. So if you have any feedback let us know at the IBC Judging Board and when time allows we will work on the other Complexes. Next year the Wilds Standards are going to receive a major revision. We are looking for volunteers to help make this work.

CHAPTER 1
BUBBLENESTERS

SPLENDENS COMPLEX

Members of Splendens Complex are : B. splendens , B. imbellis , B. siamorentalis, B. smaradigna, B. mahachaiensis and B. stiktos.

GENERAL FAULTS FOR SPLENDENS COMPLEX

Body

Length : Height = 4 : 1 , if it's only 3 : 1. Disqualified.

Color faults

The colours betta splendens group especially the red and iridescent must be vivid and bright.

- The overal colors look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colors, minor fault.
- The colors look not bright, slight fault.

Shape / Form Faults

Dorsal

Wide, having same height with caudal. No overlapping with caudal fin.

- Looks small, minor fault.
- Not shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, or not neatly rounded, slight fault.
- Slight overlapping with caudal fin, slight fault.
- Overlapping with caudal fin (2mm or more), major fault.

Caudal

Neatly rounded or spade shaped, spreaded wide.

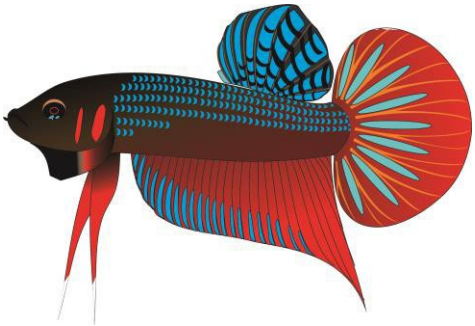
- Not widely spreaded, minor fault.
- Unsymmetrical shaped, minor fault.
- 1 small damage, slight fault.
- Uneven rays, slight fault.
- Bended ray, minor fault.
- Random rays, major fault.
- Double double rays, the branching is more than secondary , disqualified.

Anal

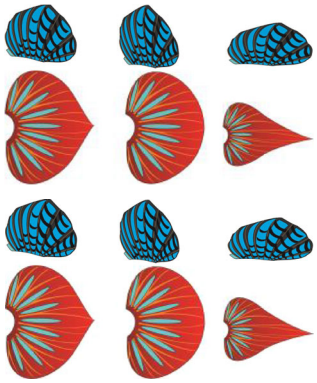
Pointed trapesiod shape. Front edge : Longest tip = 1 : 3.

- The longest tip is short, less than 3 times of the front edge length, major fault (except b. stiktos).
- Curved with concave shape toward the edge, minor fault.
- No pointed tip, major fault.
- The edge looks not neat, minor fault.
- Slightly torn, slight fault
- Slightly lost parts / edge, major fault.
- Many lost parts, Severe fault / disqualified

Betta splendens



Ideal Betta splendens is adult fish, shown by it's large size and physical characteristics especially it's anal fin which has pointed long tip and it's long ventral fins.

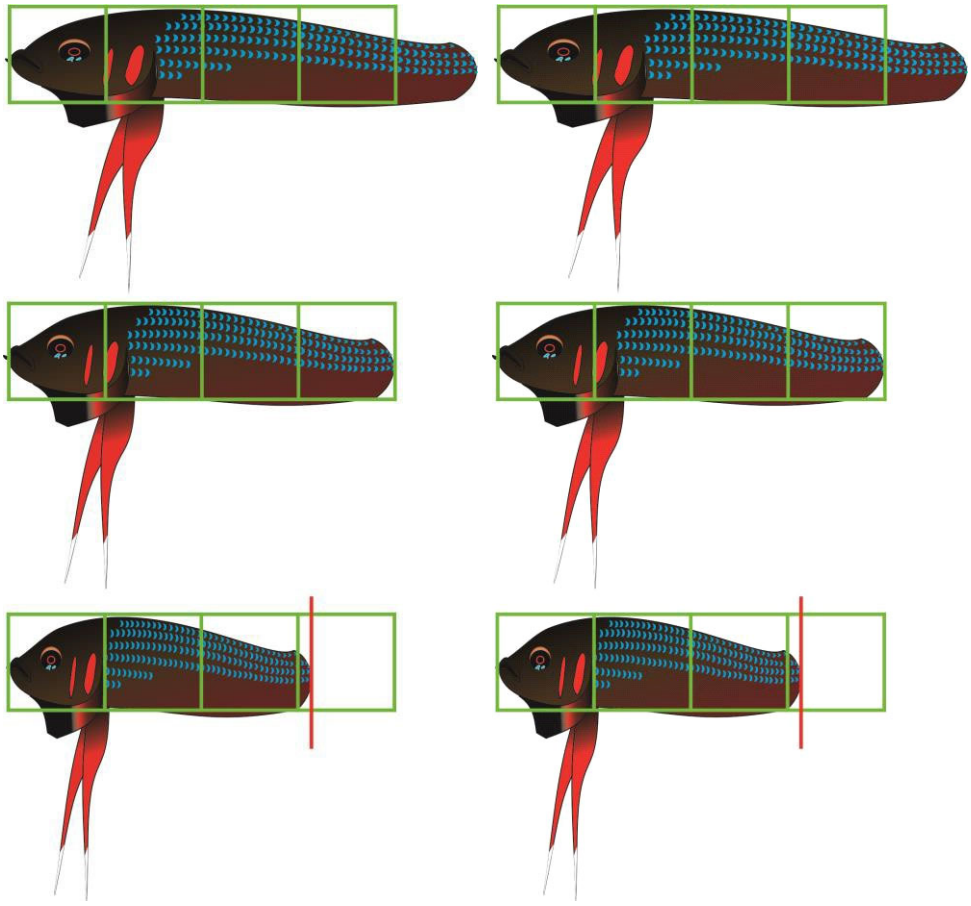


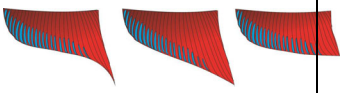
Minimum male size 3,75 cm (1.5") Body Only Minimum female size 3,25 cm (1.25") Body Only Generally, larger fish is to be preferred.

Ventral

The length of the ventral fins are the same length with the pointed tip of the anal. If it's longer, better.

- Uneven ventral fins length, minor fault.
- Short ventral fins, minor fault.
- Less than or equal with half the length of anal fin's tip, major fault.
- Slightly bended, slight fault.
- Unevenly shaped, minor fault.



Betta splendens	Description of ideal anatomical shapes	Shapes
Head	Bullet shaped head	
Body	Long and rounded body shape, Length : Height = 4 : 1	
Dorsal	Shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, single fin	
Caudal	Rounded, double fin rays	
Anal	Trapesiod, The length of the first ray from the head is around 1/3 of the length of the pointed tip. Single fin rays.	
Ventrals	Knife shaped, straight, pointed down. Ideal length of the ventral fins is half the length of the body (head included) which is the same length as the pointed end of anal fin.	
Pectorals	Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.	

Betta splendens	Descriptions of anatomical colors	
Head	Black head with 2 red lines mark on the operculum.	
Body	Brownish black body. Better if the upper sides of the body have well spreaded green iridescent spots.	
Dorsal	Black, covered with iridescent colours and “spider-web” pattern.	

Caudal	Red with “beam”, eliptical shaped iridescent color on the webbing between the rays.	
Anal	Red. With iridescent colour on the edge of the anal fins spreaded from front to back.	
Ventrals	Red. White tip, black base.	
Pectorals	Transparent black	

Color faults

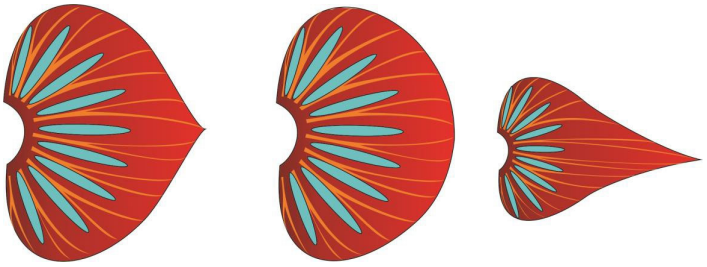
The colors Betta splendens should be red and iridescent must be vivid and bright.

- The overal colours look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colours, minor fault.
- No iridescent colour on the upper side of the body, minor fault.
- The colours look not bright, slight fault.

Dorsal

Red and covered by green/turquoise iridescent . Some parts are covered by “spider-web” pattern.

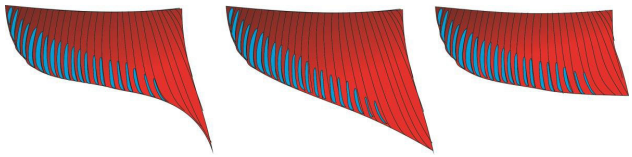
- Not full iridescent and no red, minor fault,
- Only red, slight fault.



Caudal

Red with neatly patterned “beam-eliptical shaped” green/turqoise iridescent.

- If the iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault
- Iridescent pattern is less than half of the caudal length, slight fault.
- If the length iridescent pattern reach the edge of the caudal, it’s not to be prefered over the “regular” length .



Anal

Red with iridescent color on the front edge which gradually “shortened” toward the back edge.

- No iridescent color, major fault.
- The iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault.
- Covered with iridescent color by more than half of the anal fin but it’s neatly patterned, slight fault.

Ventrals

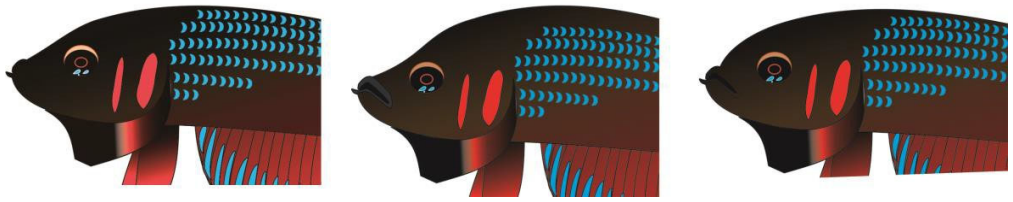
Red with white tips.

- Black coloured, major fault.
- No white tips, minor fault.
- The white colour spreaded toward the base, minor fault.
- If there are some black “stains”, slight fault.

Shape / Form Faults

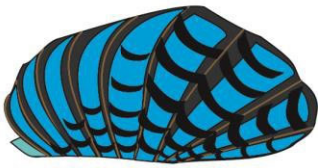
Head

A splendens must have bullet-shaped head. If it’s oval, Disqualified.

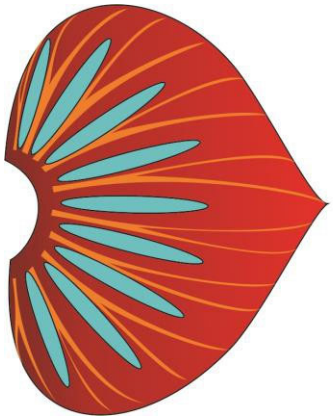


Ideal Dorsal fin's shape

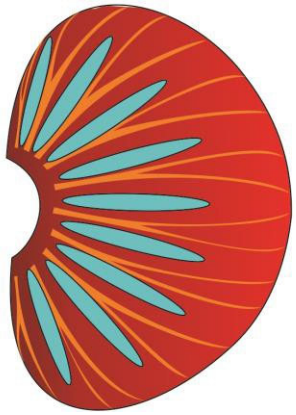
Too narrow and high. Major fault.



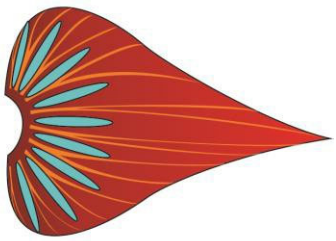
Too wide and short. Major fault.



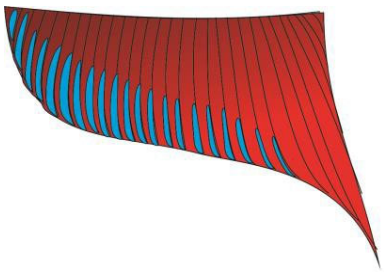
Spade-shaped caudal fin is acceptable.



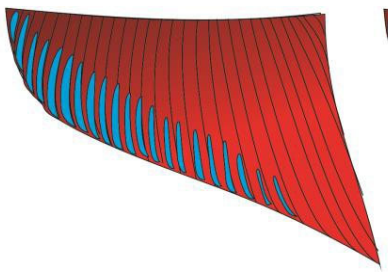
Ideal splenden's caudal fin's shape looks rounded almost like half a circle like in traditional show



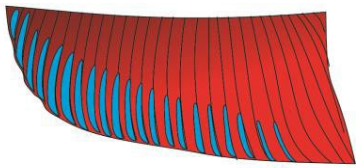
Unacceptable, severe fault.



Ideal splenden's anal fin shape.

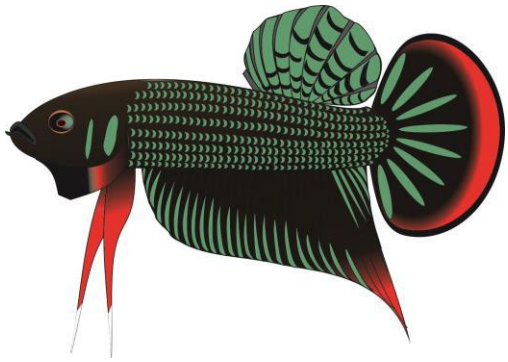


The anal fin's shape looks closer to asymmetrical show plakat, Severe fault. If it looks like long-finned

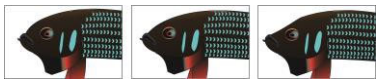


Too short and looks like symmetrical show plakat. Disqualified.

Betta imbellis



Ideal betta imbellis is adult fish, shown by it's large size and physical characteristics especially it's anal fin which has pointed long tip and it's long ventral fins.
Minimum male size 3,75 cm (1.5") Body Only
Minimum female size 3,25 cm (1.25") Body Only Generally, larger fish is to be preferred.

Betta imbellis	Description of ideal anatomical shapes	Bentuk
Head	Oval / rounded shaped head	
Body	Long and rounded body shape, Length : Height = 4 : 1	
Dorsal	Shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, single fin rays	
Caudal	Rounded, double fin rays	
Anal	Trapesiod, The length of the first ray from the head is around 1/3 of the length of the pointed tip. Single fin rays.	
Ventrals	Knife shaped, straight, pointed down. Ideal length of the ventral fins is half the length of the body (head included) which is the same length as the pointed end of anal fin.	
Pectorals	Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.	

Betta imbellis	Descriptions of anatomical colors	
Head	Black head with 2 green lines mark on the operculum.	
Body	Brownish black body. With green iridescent spots on the scales.	

Dorsal	Black, covered with iridescent colours and “spider-web” pattern.	
Caudal	Black based with “crescent-shaped” red on the tip, and iridescent colour with circular lines pattern.	
Anal	Black. With iridescent colour “lines” and red on the pointed tip of the anal fins.	
Ventrals	Red. White tip, black base.	
Pectorals	Transparent black	

Color faults

The colors Betta imbellis have should be typically red and iridescent must be vivid and bright.

- The overal colours look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colours, minor fault.
- No iridescent colour spots on the body, severe fault.
- Full iridescent scales, not spots, severe fault.
- The colours look not bright, slight fault.

Dorsal

Red and covered by green/turquoise iridescent . Some parts are covered by “spider-web” pattern.

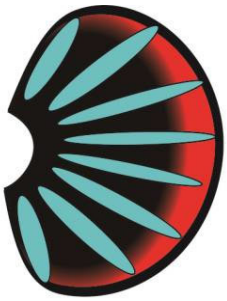
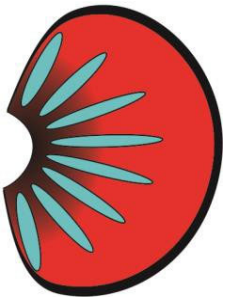
- Not full iridescent and no red, minor fault,
- Only red, slight fault.

Caudal

Red with neatly patterned “beam-eliptical shaped” green/turqoise iridescent.

- If the iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault
- Iridescent pattern is less than half of the caudal length, slight fault.
- If the length iridescent pattern reach the edge of the caudal, minor fault.

Anal

Red    with

Ideal Imbellis caudal’s colour.	Iridescent colour reach the edge of the caudal, minor fault.	Red covering nearly all part of the caudal. No “crescent- shaped” seen, major – severe fault.

iridescent color on the front edge which gradually “shortened” toward the back edge.

- No iridescent color, major fault.
- The iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault.
- Covered with iridescent color by more than half of the anal fin but it’s neatly patterned, slight fault.

Ventrals

Red with white tips.

- Black coloured, major fault.
- No white tips, minor fault.
- The white colour spreaded toward the base, minor fault.
- If there are some black “stains”, slight fault.

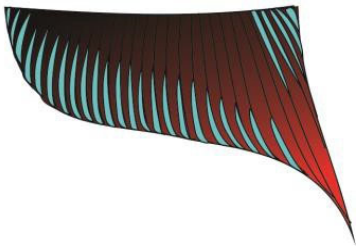
Shape / Form Faults

Head

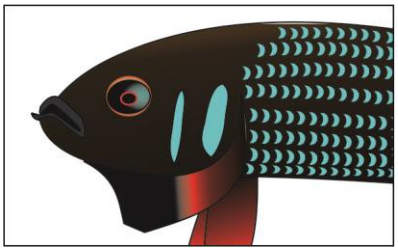
An imbellis must have rounded / oval shaped head. If it’s bullet-shaped, Disqualified.

Ideal imbellis anal's colour. If no red on the pointed tip. Disqualified.

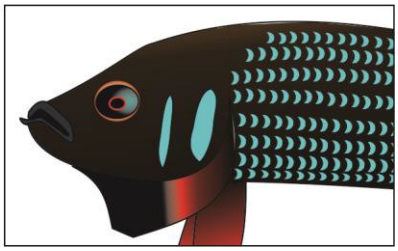
Iridescent colour too dominant, slight fault



Red colour too dominant, severe fault.

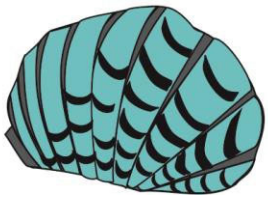


Ideal Imbellis head shape.

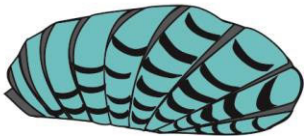


Bullet-shape head, like in B. splendens, unacceptable, disqualified.

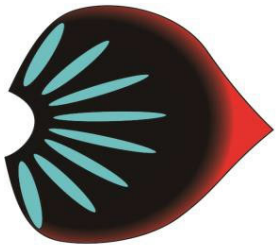
Too narrow and high. Major fault.



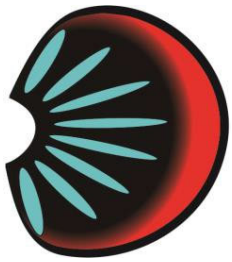
Ideal imbellis dorsal's shape.



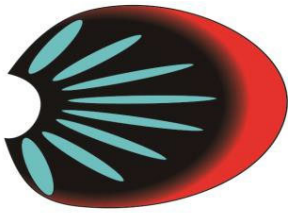
Too wide and short. Major fault.



Spade - shape. Disqualified.



Ideal Imbellis caudal.



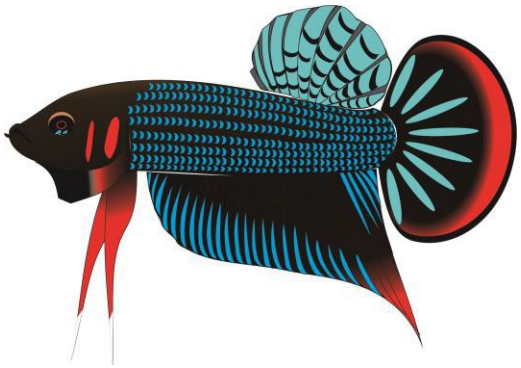
Caudal fin too long, severe fault.

The anal fin's shape looks closer to asymmetrical show plakat, Severe fault. If it looks like long-finned

Ideal Imbellis anal fin shape

Too short and looks like symmetrical show plakat. Disqualified.

Betta siamorentalis



Ideal betta siamorientalis is adult fish, shown by it's large size and physical characteristics especially it's anal fin which has pointed long tip and it's long ventral fins.

Minimum male size 3,75 cm (1.5") Body Only

Minimum female size 3,25 cm (1.25") Body Only

For siamorientalis, slightly smaller size (- 5 mm / 0.2") is acceptable Generally, larger fish is to be preferred.

Betta siamorientalis	Description of ideal anatomical shapes
Head	Bullet shaped head
Body	Long and rounded body shape, Length : Height = 4 : 1
Dorsal	Shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, single fin rays
Caudal	Rounded, double fin rays
Anal	Trapesium, The length of the first ray from the head is around 1/3 of the length of the pointed tip. Single fin rays.
Ventrals	Knife shaped, straight, pointed down. Ideal length of the ventral fins is half the length of the body (head included) which is the same length as the pointed end of anal fin.
Pectorals	Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.

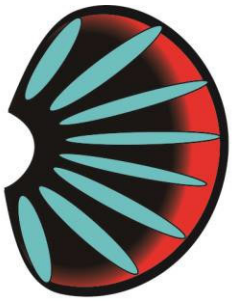
Betta siamorientalis	Descriptions of anatomical colours
Head	Black head with 2 red lines mark on the operculum.
Body	Brownish black body. With green iridescent spots on the scales.
Dorsal	Black, covered with iridescent colours and “spider-web” pattern.
Caudal	Black based with “crescent-shaped” red on the tip, and iridescent colour with circular lines pattern.
Anal	Black. With iridescent colour “lines” and red on the pointed tip of the anal fins.
Ventrals	Red. White tip, black base.
Pectorals	Transparent black

Colour faults

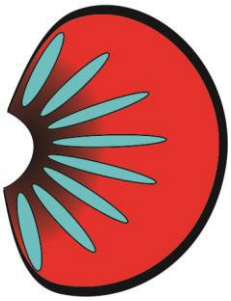
The colors Betta siamorientalis should have are red and iridescent must be vivid and bright.

- The overal colours look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colours, minor fault.
- No iridescent colour spots on the body, severe fault.
- Full iridescent scales, not spots, severe fault.
- The colours look not bright, slight fault.

Ideal siamorientalis caudal’s colour.



Iridescent colour reach the edge of the caudal, minor fault.



Red covering nearly all part of the caudal. No “crescent- shaped” seen, major – severe fault.

Dorsal

Red and covered by green/turquoise iridescent . Some parts are covered by “spider-web” pattern.

- Not full iridescent and no red, minor fault,
- Only red, slight fault.

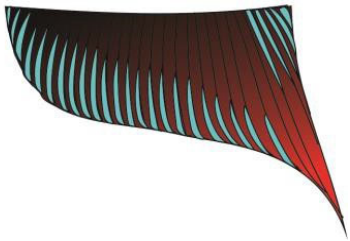
Caudal

Red with neatly patterned “beam-eliptical shaped” green/turqoise iridescent.

- If the iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault
- Iridescent pattern is less than half of the caudal length, slight fault.
- If the length iridescent pattern reach the edge of the caudal, minor fault.

Ideal siamorientalis anal’s colour. If no red on the pointed tip. Disqualified.

Iridescent colour too dominant, slight fault



Red colour too dominant, severe fault.

Anal

Red with iridescent color on the front edge which gradually “shortened” toward the back edge.

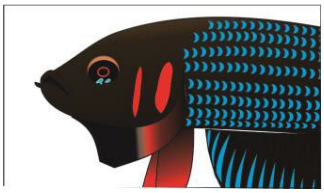
- No iridescent color, major fault.
- The iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault.
- Covered with iridescent color by more than half of the anal fin but it’s neatly patterned, slight fault.

Ventrals

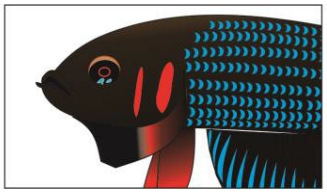
Red with white tips.

- Black coloured, major fault.
- No white tips, minor fault.
- The white colour spreaded toward the base, minor fault.
- If there are some black “stains”, slight fault.

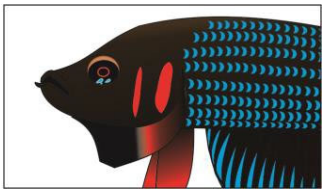
Shape / Form Faults



Ideal siamorientalis head shape is bullet shape like B. splendens.

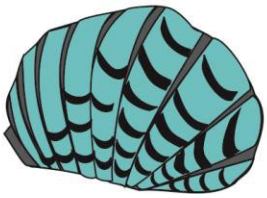


Slightly rounded / oval head is acceptable.

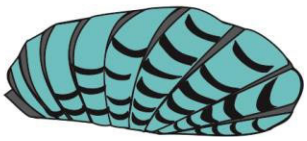


Grooved. Severe fault.

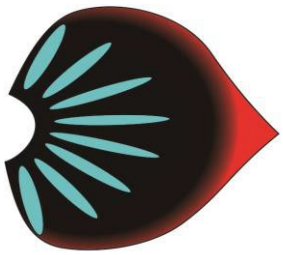
Too narrow and high. Major fault.



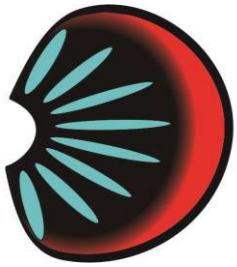
Ideal siamorientalis dorsal's shape.



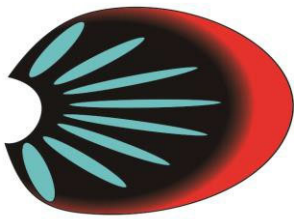
Too wide and short. Major fault.



Spade - shape. Disqualified.



Ideal siamorientalis caudal.



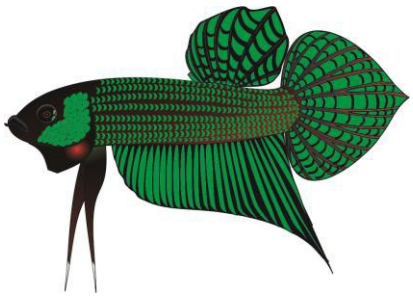
Caudal fin too long, severe fault.

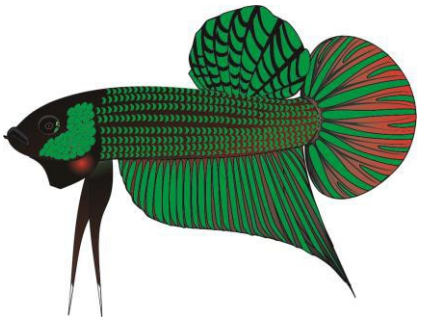
The anal fin's shape looks closer to asymmetrical show plakat, Severe fault. If it looks like long-finned

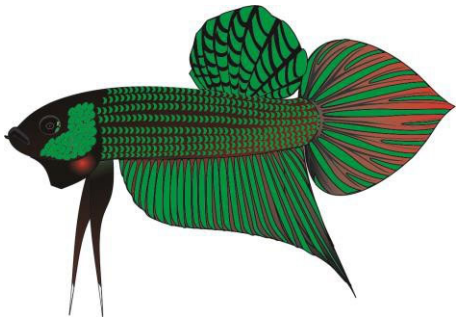
Ideal Imbellis anal fin shape

Too short and looks like symmetrical show plakat. Disqualified.

Betta smaragdina



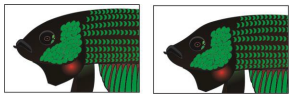




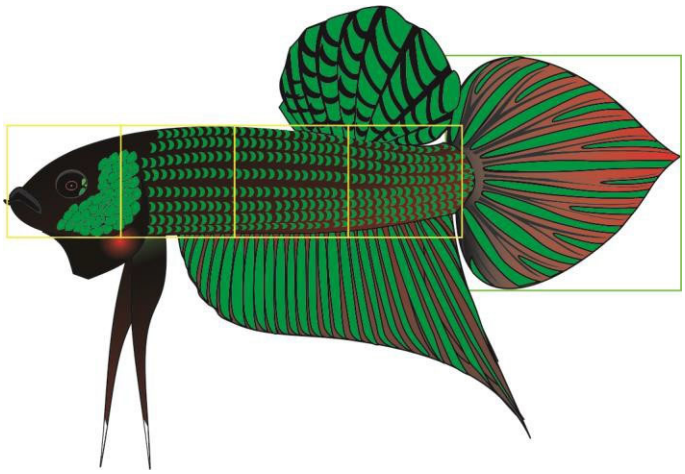
Ideal betta smaragdina is adult fish, shown by it's large size and physical characteristics especially it's anal fin which has pointed long tip and it's long ventral fins.

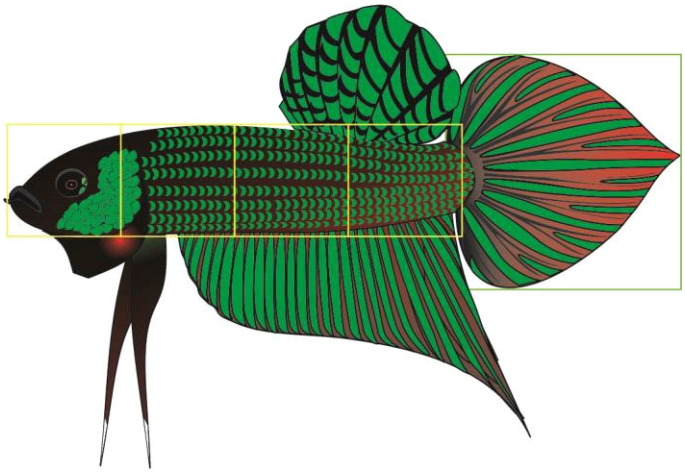
Minimum male size 3,75 cm (1.5") Body Only

Minimum female size 3,25 cm (1.25") Body Only Generally, larger fish is to be preferred.

Betta smaragdina	Description of ideal anatomical shapes	Shape
Head	Oval / rounded shaped head	
Body	Long and rounded body shape, Length : Height = 4 : 1	
Dorsal	Shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, single fin rays	
Caudal	Rounded or spade shape, double fin rays	
Anal	Trapesium, The length of the first ray from the head is around 1/3 of the length of the pointed tip. Single fin rays.	
Ventrals	Knife shaped, straight, pointed down. Ideal length of the ventral fins is half the length of the body (head included) which is the same length as the pointed end of anal fin.	
Pectorals	Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.	

Betta Smaradigna	Description of ideal anatomical colours.	Bentuk
Head	Black with green metallic iridescent on the operculum.	
Body	Reddish black with iridescent green metallic spots on the scales.	
Dorsal	Red, covered with green iridescent and “spider-web” pattern.	
Caudal	Black and red with iridescent metallic green, some with “spider-web” pattern.	
Anal	Red with bluish black with green metallic pattern.	
Ventrals	Black with white tips	
Pectorals	Transparent black	





Color faults

The color betta smaragdina should have a bright green iridescence.

- The overal colours look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colours, minor fault.
- No iridescent colour spots on the body, severe fault.
- Full iridescent scales, not spots, severe fault.
- The colours look not bright, slight fault.

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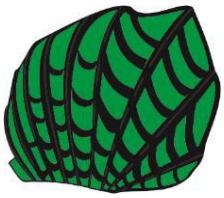
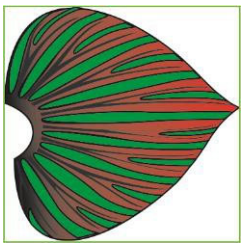


Dorsal

Black and covered by green/turquoise iridescent . Some parts are covered by “spider-web” pattern.

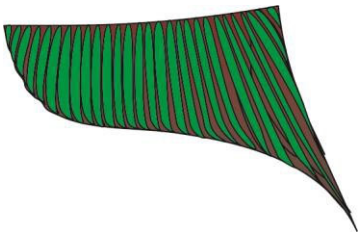
- Not full iridescent, minor fault,
- Red tip, slight fault.



Caudal

Red with covered with patterned green/turqoise iridescent.

- If the iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault
- Iridescent pattern is less than half of the caudal length, slight fault.
- If the length iridescent pattern reach the edge of the caudal, it’s not to be prefered over the “regular” length .



Anal

Red, with full iridescent spread in neat lines.

- No iridescent, minor fault.
- Iridescent lines are not neat, minor fault.
- Iridescent colours is less than half of the anal fins, slight fault.

Ventral

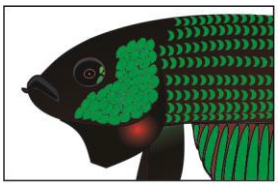
Black with white tips.

- If red coloured, major fault.
- No white tips, minor fault.
- White spreaded toward the base, minor fault.
- There are slight red colors, less than half of the ventral fins, minor fault.

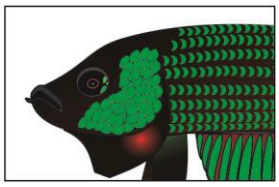
Shape / Form Faults

Head

Rounded / oval shape. If it's bullet-shaped, Disqualified. Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.

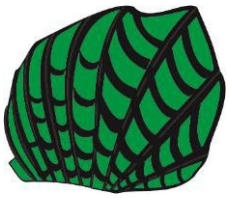


Ideal smaragdina's head.



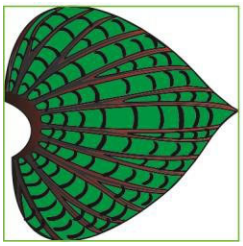
Bullet shaped like b. splendens.

Dorsal

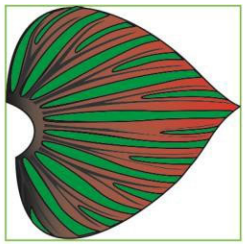


Ideal smaragdina's dorsal fin's shape.

Caudal



Spade-shaped caudal fins, smaragdina guitar.

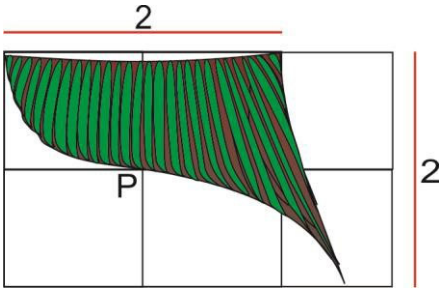


Spade-shaped caudal fins, smaragdina.

Rounded-shaped caudal fins are acceptable.

Rounded or spade-shaped. If it's spade-shaped, Length to Height ratio = 1 : 1. Spreaded wide.

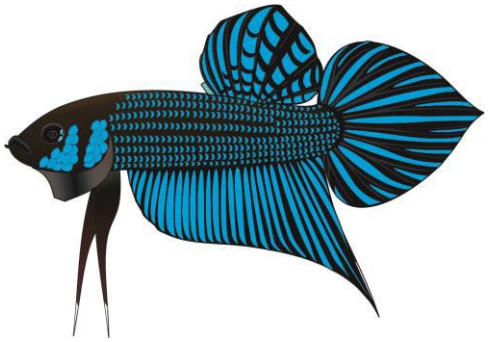
Anal



Pointed trapezoid shape. Ideal anal fin's length to height ratio = 2 : 2.

If the pointed tip of the anal fin looks short and less than the ratio above, major fault.

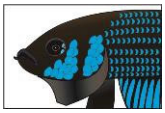
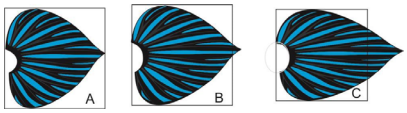
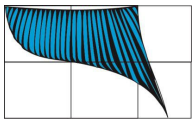
Betta mahachaiensis



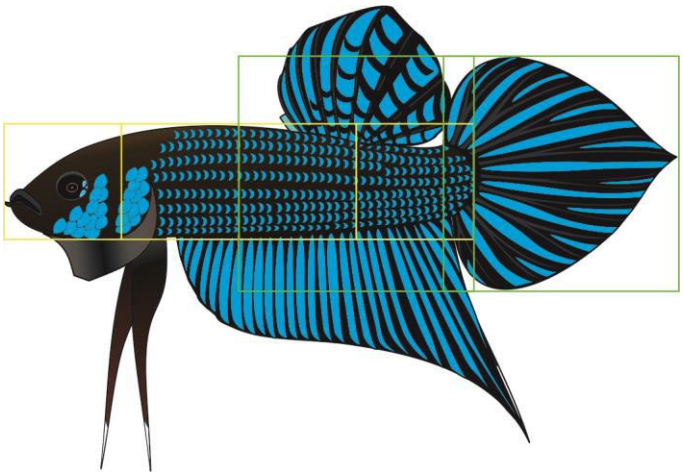
Ideal betta mahachaiensis is adult fish, shown by it's large size and physical characteristics especially it's anal fin which has pointed long tip and it's long ventral fins.

Minimum male size 3,75 cm (1.5") Body Only

Minimum female size 3,25 cm (1.25") Body Only Generally, larger fish is to be preferred.

Betta mahachaiensis	Description of ideal anatomical shapes	Shaped
Head	Oval / rounded shaped head	
Body	Long and rounded body shape, Length : Height = 4 : 1	
Dorsal	Shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, single fin rays	
Caudal	Rounded or spade shape, double fin rays	
Anal	Trapesium, The length of the first ray from the head is around 1/3 of the length of the pointed tip. Single fin rays.	
Ventrals	Knife shaped, straight, pointed down. Ideal length of the ventral fins is half the length of the body (head included) which is the same length as the pointed end of anal fin.	
Pectorals	Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.	

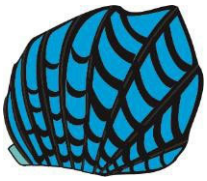
Betta mahachaiensis	Description of ideal anatomical colours	
Head	Black, with 2 vertical bluish green iridescent on the operculum.	
Body	Black, with bluish green iridescent spots on the scales.	
Dorsal	Black, covered by iridescent with “spider-web” pattern.	
Caudal	Black, with green metallic pattern and black spots.	
Anal	Black, with green metallic lines pattern.	
Ventrals	Black, with white tips.	
Pectorals	Transparent black.	



Color Faults

Betta mahachaiensis’ colours, especially the black and iridescent must be vivid and bright.

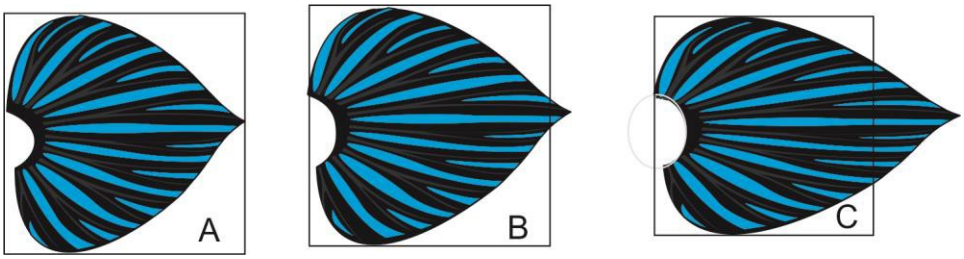
- The overal colours look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colours, minor fault.
- No iridescent colour spots on the body, severe fault.
- Full iridescent scales, not spots, severe fault.
- The colours look not bright, slight fault.



Black and covered by green/turquoise iridescent . Some parts are covered by “spider-web” pattern.

- Not full iridescent, minor fault,
- Red colour, major fault

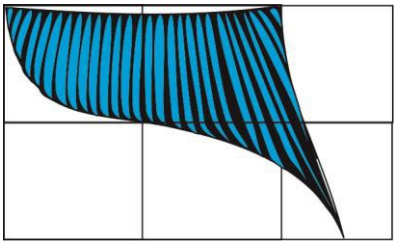
Caudal



Black, with covered with patterned green/turqoise iridescent.

- If the iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault
- Iridescent pattern is less than half of the caudal length, major fault.
- If the length iridescent pattern reach the edge of the caudal, it’s not to be prefered over the “regular” length .

Anal



Black, with iridescent color in neat lines pattern.

- No iridescent, major fault.
- Iridsecent not neat, minor fault.
- Iridescent less than half of the anal fin, major fault.
- Red wash on the base of the anal fin, minor fault.
- Slight red wash, can be seen with additional light, slight fault.

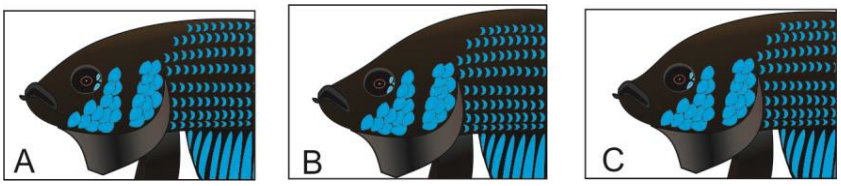
Ventral

Black. With white tips.

- Red coloured, major fault.
- No white tips, minor fault.
- White spreaded toward the base, minor fault.
- Slight red wash, slight fault.

Shape / Form faults

Head

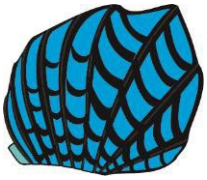


Ideal betta mahachaiensis head shape. Rounded / oval shape.

Grooved, Disqualified.

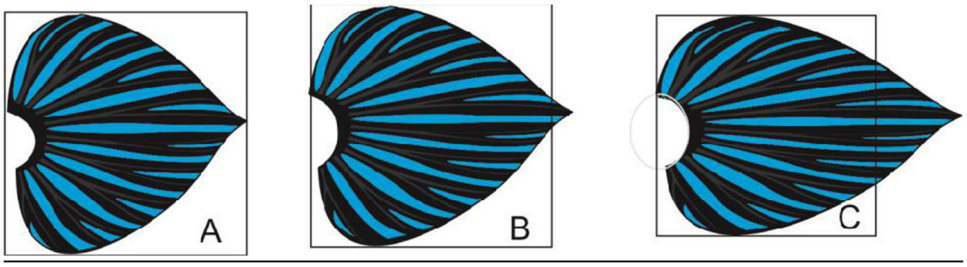
Bullet shaped like (B. splendens), severe fault.

Dorsal

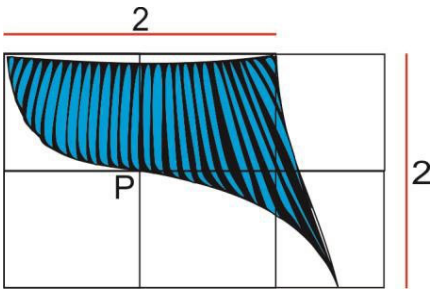


Ideal mahachaiensis dorsal fin's shape.

Caudal



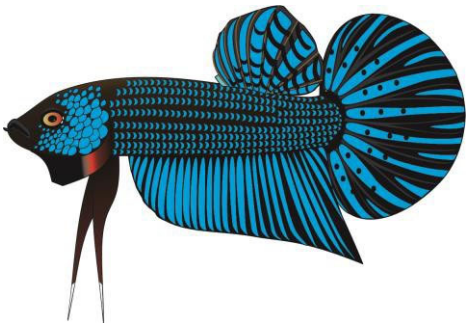
Spade shape. Rounded is acceptable. If it's spade-shaped, Length to Height ratio = 1 : 1. Spreaded wide.



Pointed trapezoid shape. Ideal anal fin's length to height ratio = 2 : 2.

If the pointed tip of the anal fin looks short and less than the ratio above, major fault.

Betta stiktos



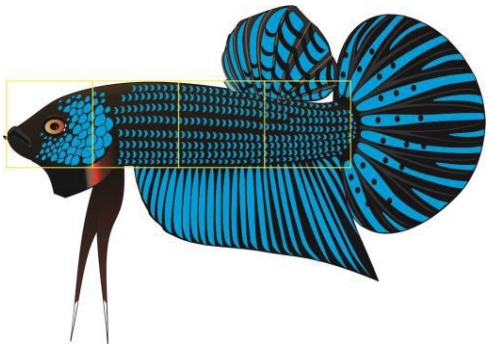
Ideal betta stiktos is adult fish, shown by it's large size and physical characteristics especially it's anal fin which has pointed long tip and it's long ventral fins.

Minimum male size 3,75 cm (1.5") Body Only

Minimum female size 3,25 cm (1.25") Body Only Generally, larger fish is to be preferred.

Betta stiktos	Description of ideal anatomical shapes	Bentuk
Head	Bullet shaped head	
Body	Long and rounded body shape, Length : Height = 4 : 1	
Dorsal	Shaped like 3 quarters of a circle, single fin rays	
Caudal	Rounded, double fin rays	
Anal	Trapesium, The length of the first ray from the head is around 1/3 of the length of the pointed tip. Single fin rays.	
Ventrals	Knife shaped, straight, pointed down. Ideal length of the ventral fins is half the length of the body (head included) which is the same length as the pointed end of anal fin.	
Pectorals	Standard size, Shaped like a hand fan with rounded edges.	

Betta stiktos	Description of ideal anatomical colours	Bentuk
Head	Black, with iridescent on the operculum. The iridescent colours also covered some parts of the head.	
Body	Black, with bluish green iridescent spots on the scales.	
Dorsal	Black, covered by iridescent with "spider-web" pattern.	
Caudal	Black, with green metallic pattern and black spots.	
Anal	Black, with green metallic lines pattern.	
Ventrals	Black, with white tips.	
Pectorals	Transparent black.	



Color faults

Betta stiktos colours, especially the black and iridescent must be vivid and bright.

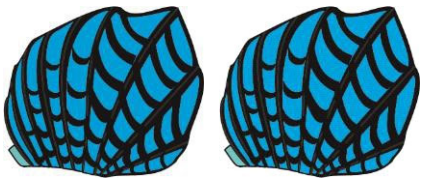
- The overal colours look pale or dull, major fault.
- Uneven body colours, minor fault.
- No iridescent colour spots on the body, severe fault.
- Full iridescent scales, not spots, severe fault.
- The colours look not bright, slight fault

Head

Betta stiktos' head is black, partially covered with iridescent colours.

- No iridescent, severe fault.
- Iridescent only on the operculum, major fault.
- Full iridescent covering all parts of the head, Disqualified.

Dorsal



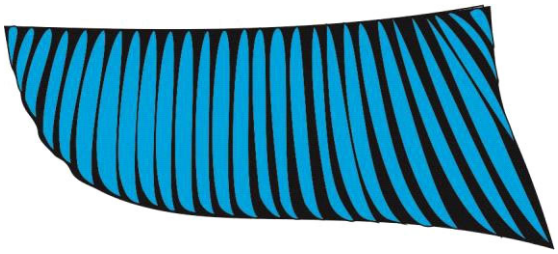
Black and covered by green/turquoise iridescent . Some parts are covered by "spider-web" pattern.

- Not full iridescent, minor fault,
- Red colour, major fault

Caudal

Black, with covered with patterned green/turqoise iridescent with black spots.

- If the iridescent pattern is not neat, minor fault
- Iridescent pattern is less than half of the caudal length, severe fault.
- The caudal fin is fully covered with iridescent, severe fault.
- Too small amount of black spots, minor fault.



Black, with iridescent color in neat lines pattern.

- No iridescent, major fault.
- Iridsecent not neat, minor fault.
- Iridescent less than half of the anal fin, major fault.
- Red wash on the base of the anal fin, minor fault.
- Slight red wash, can be seen with additional light, slight fault.

Ventral

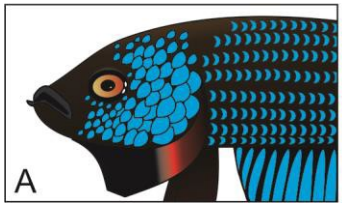
Black. With white tips.

- Red coloured, major fault.
- No white tips, minor fault.
- White spreaded toward the base, minor fault.
- Slight red wash, slight fault.

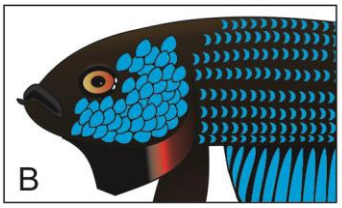
Shape / form faults

Head

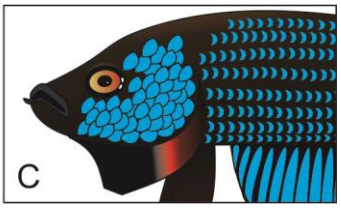
Bullet-shaped or rounded.



Ideal betta stiktos' head.

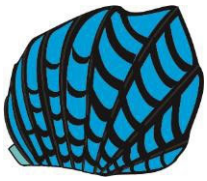


Rounded / oval shape is acceptable.



Grooved. Disqualified.

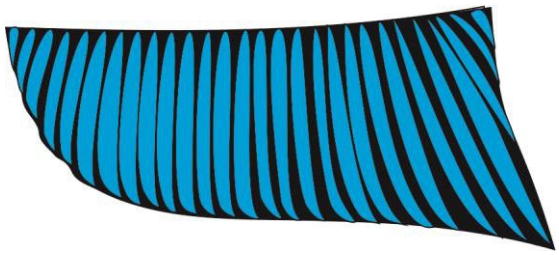
Dorsal



Ideal betta stiktos dorsal shape.

Caudal

Rounded shape , spread wide. Spade shape is not acceptable, Disqualified.



Anal

Betta stiktos anal fin is shaped like a short trapesium as in asymmetrical show betta . Front to end ratio = 1 : 2

BELLICA COMPLEX

The Bellica Complex is divided into bellica and simorum

Betta bellica

Bellica is found in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand and was introduced in the Dominican Republic. Bellica size will be 4 ½ to 5 inches in length and is not demanding as to their water conditions. Can be combative with other of its complex; however they are typically a shy fish.

Deportment: Sometimes aggressive. Can be quite sluggish. May be very quick. An intelligent, curious Betta. May flare at image but too large to display well in a bowl.

Disqualification: Broad head (Indicating a Mouthbrooder). Any color other then the yellowish tanish body with green iridescence.

Sexing: Males have a spike in the caudal fin and will have extensions in their anal fin. Females will have a rounded caudal tail and may have a plumper belly.

Betta simorun

Simorum is found in peat swamps of Indonesia. Simorum size will be 4 ¾ to 5 inches in length and is not demanding as to their water conditions. Can be combative with other of its complex; however, they are typically a shy fish.

Deportment: Sometimes aggressive. Can be quite sluggish. May be very quick. An intelligent, curious Betta. May flare at image but too large to display well in a bowl.

Disqualification: Broad head (Indicating a Mouthbrooder). Any color other then the yellowish tanish body with green iridescence.

Sexing: Males have a spike in the caudal fin and will have extensions in their anal fin. Females will have a rounded caudal tail and may have a plumper belly.

COCCINA COMPLEX

The Coccina complex is divided into the species brownorum, burdigala, coccina, livida, miniopinna, persephone, rutilans, tussyae, uberis, and sp. Sukadana. Most of these species inhabit blackwater peat swamps that are very low in pH from 3.7 to 5.0. Identification of individual species requires taxonomical keys and sometimes their exact location of capture must be known. Some species are also highly variable in appearance and this makes identification even more difficult.

Species	Dorsal Fin	Side Markings	Pelvic Fins
Coccina	Small	Green Blotch*	Red, Black tip
Livida	Small	Small Green Blotch*	Red, White tip
Brownorum	Small	Large Green Blotch	Red, White tip
Burdigala	Large	Green Side	Red, White tip
Miniopinna	Small	None	Red, White tip
Persephone	Small	None	Black, rarely red, White tip
Rutilans	Small	None	Red, Long, White tip
Tussyae	Small	None	Red, Short, White tip
Uberis	Large	Green Side	Red, White tip

Some populations do not have side blotches.

Betta coccina

Info: Coccina comes from the blackwater swamps of Indonesia and can be found in Malaysia. Coccina can be highly variable in its appearance. Typically the male has a green blotch or spot on his side but some populations lack the spots and others have the green sides instead of the spot. Adult size is 2 ¾ inches.

Coccina Female

Coccina Male

Deportment: Typically a shy and sulking fish preferring to hide. Males can flare against other males or females.

Sexing: Males have longer fins that are pointed and typically edged in white. Females will have a plumper abdomen and may display an egg tube.

Betta livida

Info: Found in Blackwater streams of Malaysia where the pH is between 3.5 and 3.7 where the temperature does not exceed 75 F. Livida is noted for green eyes opposed to the typically blue eyes of coccina however coccina can have green eyes and livida will have a smaller green side blotch. Adult size is 2 inches.

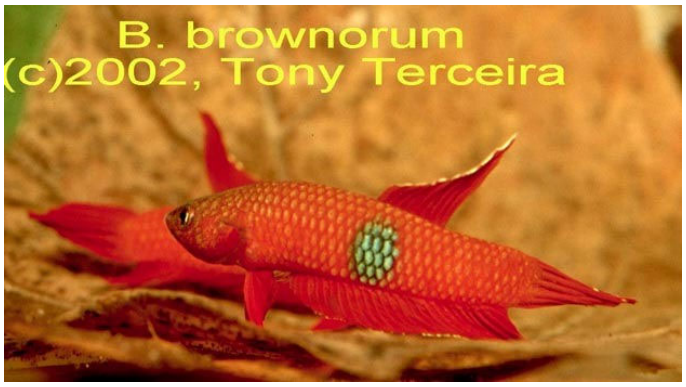
Deportment: A shy retreating fish that can flare at rival males and females.

Disqualification: Blue eyes (indicating coccina), large side blotch (indicating another species)

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

Betta brownorum

Info: Brownorum comes from Indonesia, Malaysia, central and eastern Thailand, Kampuchea and southern Vietnam. This species is another peat swamp fish coming from low pH water. Brownorum have been known to mouthbrood and bubblenest. Adult size is 1 ¾ inches.



Deportment: Brownorum can be active and will actively flare at other similar species. Brownorum should appear alert and active.

Disqualification: Small side blotch (indicating another species)

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

Betta burdigala

Info: Burdigala is found on Bangka island in Indonesia. When the male is not colored up he may have a black spot about two thirds of the way down his body. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Non black side blotch (indicating another species), Small dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

Betta miniopinna

Info: Miniopinna comes from the swamp forest at Tanjong Bintan on Riau Island in Indonesia.
Adult size is 1 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Black pelvic fins (indicating persephone). Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins.

Betta persephone

Info: Found north of Ayer Hitam in Malaysia. Listed as critically endangered. Persephone is dark and when excited males turn solid black with green iridescence. Adult size is ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and notsulking. Disqualification: Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

Betta rutilans

Info: Found in Kalimantan Barat Borneo. Rutilans is red without any green markings. It is a smaller species. Rutilans does not have the green iridescence as most of the other members of the coccina complex however sp. cf. rutilans has the green like burdigala. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and notsulking. Disqualification: Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

Betta tussyae

Info: Tussyae comes from the Pahang State of Malaysia in blackwater swamps. It lacks the star or blotch on the sides that many other members of the complex. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Green or Blue side blotch (indicating another species), Large dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

Betta uberis

Info: Recently described species formerly sp. Pangkalanbun. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Can be a showy fish when flaring. Should be alert and not sulking.

Disqualification: Side blotch (indicating another species), Small dorsal fin indicating another species.

Sexing: Males always have longer fins with pointing on the anal and dorsal fins. Males may have white edging in the fins. Females should show ovipositor or egg tube.

PICTA COMPLEX

The Picta Complex contains the species picta, falx, simplex and taeniata.

Betta picta

Originally thought to have a wide range in Southeast Asia but as taxonomists examine the populations more closely they are classifying them as new species. These species are increasingly common and ease of breeding and keeping are increasing their popularity. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this. Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.
Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

Betta falx

A recently named species and a subset of the former picta population. Falx is virtually identical to picta in almost every respect and is virtually indistinguishable from them in the aquarium. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this. Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.

Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

Betta simplex

Simplex is also one of the newer species from Thailand. They can be much more quarrelsome then other members of the picta complex. Adult size is 2 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this. Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.
Sexing: Both sexes can display an anal stripe but the Male is very pronounced. Males may have a much deeper color almost to a brick red color. Males also have a wider head and if the female is subjected to enough light her ovaries may be seen.

Betta taeniata

Taeniata is a seldom seen largest member of the picta complex. They can be quite alert and quite active. Adult size is 3 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but many mouthbrooders tend to sulk in bowls. A sprig of plants generally helps with this. Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Two fish showing the same anal stripes.

Sexing as per others in this complex

UNIMACULATA COMPLEX

The Unimaculata Complex contains the species unimaculata, macrostoma, patoti, ocellata, pallifina, and gladiator. Morphologically they are unlike any other wild Bettas and some have maintained they should be their own genus.

Betta unimaculata

Unimaculata is a very inquisitive species but is also very jumpy capable of leaps of over 2 feet in the air. Although not very colorful they are flashy in their own right. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: They should look alert and with fins erect and not clamped. They may flare or use a "yawning display" for dominance.

Disqualification: Any signs of disease and clamped fins.

Sexing: Can be difficult with this species but males tend to have cheek iridescence that females tend not to have and older mature males will have labial flaps on their lips.

Betta macrostoma

Macrostoma is considered to be the prize gem in the Betta world because of its rarity and difficulty of keeping. Their prices have steadily dropped as more and more people are breeding them successfully. There are two forms of macrostoma and they may eventually be classified as two separate species. The form we recognize is the Brunei Form and not the Malaysian Form. Adult size is 5 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert but this species will probably sulk unless it has been acclimated to showing. Disqualification: Any sign of disease. Female showing male coloration.

Sexing: When the male is mature sexing is easy as the male becomes an orange brown with a spot in the dorsal fin as well as banding in the tail. Look for pattern in the unpaired fins of Macrostoma to determine if the female is actually a female. The body color can look female but the fins will frequently give a subdominant male away.

Betta patoti

Patoti is a relatively hard to find member of the unimaculata complex. Females are aggressive to rival males and may actually kill them. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert and not showing any signs of disease.

Disqualification: Both specimens having vertical stripes. The male may not display the stripes all the time.

Sexing: In mature fish the male should show vertical striping but the female will not. The female should not show any or very little cheek iridescence however males can but may not either depending on mood and population.

Betta ocellata

Another rarely encountered fish of the unimaculata complex for all intents are virtually identical to Unimaculata. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but may sulk.

Disqualification: Any signs of disease, female with male iridescence.
Sexing: Males have larger lips and more intense iridescence (see pictures above).

PUGNAX COMPLEX

The Pugnax Complex contains the species pugnax, cracens, enisae, fusca, lehi, pallida, prima, pulchra, schalleri, stigmosa, and raja.

Betta pugnax

Pugnax is one of the larger mouthbrooders and is readily available but because of the lack of color is seldom kept. Mature males have long extensions on the pelvic and anal fins and will have a pointed tail, females do not. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert and pugnax is easily bowl trained.

Disqualification: Any fish showing any signs of disease. Both fish showing long fin extensions.

Sexing: Males have long fin extensions on the pelvic and anal fins as well as a pointed caudal fin. Males may also show green iridescence on their cheek.

Betta enisae

Enisae is one of the newer species from the Kapuas region and sports a brilliant blue band on the anal fin and tail like a majority of the species from that region. Can be aggressive but in all other respects very similar to pugnax. Adult size is 3 ½ inches.

Deportment: Should be alert and active however might sulk. Disqualification: Both fish showing a brilliant blue band.

Sexing: Males will have a more pointed caudal than the female, males will show a blue or green cheek coloring. Males will also have longer pelvic fins and should have a point in the anal fin.

Betta fusca


Fusca is an early described species but the specimens that were available were dubious at best. Fusca has recently been imported in large numbers from reliable sources and is now readily available. Adult size is 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be Alert but might sulk.

Disqualification: Any sign of illness or disease, female with male finnage.

Sexing: Males have a golden iridescence in the cheek; females will mainly show stripes or no color at all. Males have much longer pelvic fins and have an extension of the anal fin and a caudal spike.

Betta pallida

Pallida is a recently described species from Thailand that is rather drab but the species is becoming more available. Adult size is 4 to 5 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert and fins erect.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease, female showing a distinctive caudal spike.

Sexing: Males have longer pelvic fins and a pronounced caudal spike. Males are also more iridescent.

Betta prima


Betta prima male


Betta prima female

Prima is also a recently described species which is becoming more available. Adult size is 3 ½ inches. Deportment: Should be alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease. Female showing male finnage.

Sexing: Males have a caudal spike as well as longer pelvic fins and an extension of the anal fin.

Betta raja

Another recently described species that is readily imported.

Adult size is 5 inches. Deportment: Should be Alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Any sign of disease, females sporting male finnage.

Sexing: Males have longer pelvic fins and a large anal extension. Males also have green golden iridescent cheeks.

ALBIMARGINATA COMPLEX

The Albimarginata Complex currently contains only two species, albimarginata and channoides however there is the possibility of two more species being described from these species.

Betta albimarginata


Albimarginata is clearly one of most beautiful of the wild bettas available however it is still rare but is becoming more common. It is a small but very flashy species. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert however will probably sulk as it is a shy species. Disqualification: Any sign of disease, females showing male coloration.
Sexing: Can be difficult to sex unless the male is colored up. The male tends to have a larger white band and an orange cheek flash.

Betta channoides


Another rare Mouthbrooder that is becoming increasingly available. Also like albimarginata these are small fish and may not be colored up in a show setting. Adult size is 2 inches.

Deportment: Should be alert but may sulk due to stress.

Disqualification: Any signs of disease. Both fish showing male coloration.

Sexing: Can be rather difficult, males normally have bigger heads and when colored up are easy to distinguish.

FOERSCHI COMPLEX

Currently four species listed, foerschi, strohi, mandor, rubra. Betta rubra has not been seen since the 1890s however some collectors claim to have recently found some and they may become available soon.

Betta foerschi


Foerschi is relatively easy to keep but shows its best conditions in acidic water. Males can be quite flashy while females remain relatively plain. Males can go from brown (colored like the female on right) to jet black with blue and green iridescent overlay making a quite beautiful fish. Adult size is 3 inches.

Deportment: Should be active and alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Males with gold opercular bars (strohi), females showing male coloration. Sexing: Males have red opercular bars and have a slight caudal spike and a more pointed anal

Betta mandor


A newly described species very similar to foerschi. Adult size is 3 inches. Deportment: Should be active and alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Males with gold opercular bars (strohi), females showing male coloration.
Sexing: Males have red opercular bars and have a slight caudal spike and a more pointed anal fish.

Betta strohi

A newer species that is quite similar to foerschi or mandor except for the gold opercular bars instead of the red. Note on all species the females retain the gold opercular bars. Adult size is 3 inches.
Deportment: Should be active and alert with fins erect.

Disqualification: Males with red opercular bars (foerschi and mandor), females showing male coloration. Sexing: Males have gold opercular bars and have a slight caudal spike and a more pointed anal fish.

AKARENSIS COMPLEX

Deportment: larger species that will probably skulk in a bowl

Betta akarensis – Light brown to gold species with golden iridescence on the scales. Gold to light green iridescent patch on cheeks on both males and females. Extended fins or fin extensions on both sexes but males will be longer. Grows to 5".

Betta antoni – brown toned body distinguished by its black lower lip, black chin bar and slim body profile. Will reach 5 inches in length.

Betta chini – big, brown species that reaches 5.5" in length. May have a slight green iridescence to the cheek. The body has a slight green iridescence that is more pronounced on males. This species frequently displays two horizontal black bars. Males have longer finnage.

Betta ibanorum – Dark brown species reaching 5" in length. Finnage very reminiscent of pugnax complex species, with which it can easily be confused.

ANABATOIDES COMPLEX

Betta anabatoides - Large, unspotted mouthbrooder. Pale yellow to tan in color with some iridescence and slightly elongated fins or fin extensions on males. Grows to 5" in length.

WASERI COMPLEX

Large species that will probably skulk in a bowl.

Betta waseri – Light brown species with dark brown to black horizontal bars. Reaches 5.5" in length. Gill cover can show some green iridescence; otherwise, little if any iridescence on the body. Males have spade shaped caudals and longer dorsal and anal fins than females.

Betta chloropharynx – Large, brown species with very little iridescence. Can show horizontal barring. Most colorful feature is a green throat. Males with slightly longer fins. Grows to 5".

Betta pi – Large, brown species with little iridescence. Wild specimens can grow to 7" but captive bred individuals rarely exceed 5.5". This species is easily identified by the marking in the shape of the mathematical symbol for pi on its lower lip and chin. Males have longer finnage.

Betta tomi – Large, brown species with more iridescence than many of the other members of this complex. Cheek and chin area can be green to greenish blue. The same color may continue through the lower half of the fish. Males have longer finnage. Grows to 5.5".