

Chapter 4E: Finnage Characteristics – Crowntail Plakat

General remark:

A Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 20% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins.

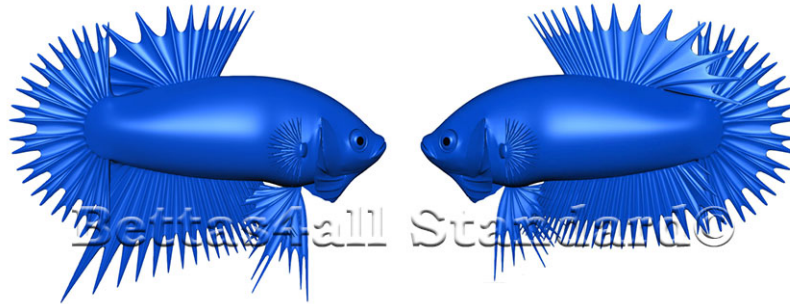


Figure 4E.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal crowntail plakat (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

1.3 Overall balance

The ideal crowntail plakat can be based on the form of the asymmetrical halfmoon plakat (see **Chapter 4B**) or that of the symmetrical halfmoon plakat (see **Chapter 3C**). The contour of the ideal symmetrical shortfinned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.5-times the height. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of the oval in a smooth way without any irregularities. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. In contrast to the symmetrical shortfinned Betta, the upper part of the ideal asymmetrical halfmoon plakat approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin.

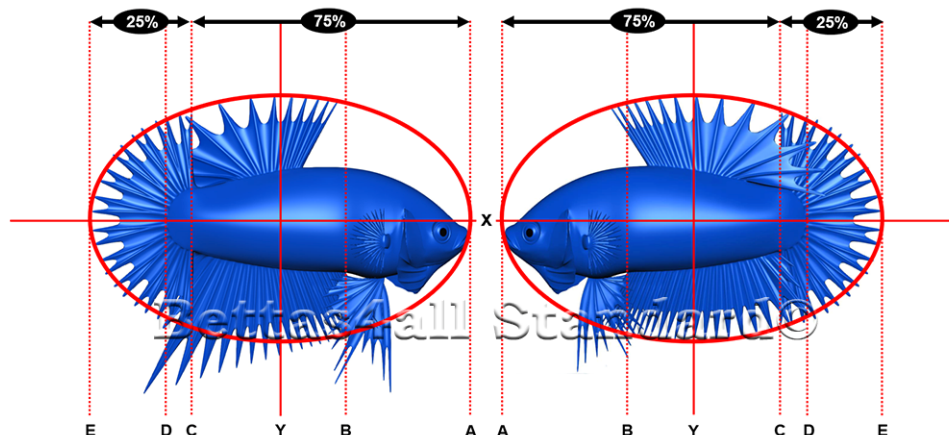


Figure 4E.2 The contour of the ideal symmetrical crowntail plakat (right) fits an oval, whereas the lower part of the asymmetrical crowntail plakat (left) does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal crowntail plakat.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the crowntail plakat (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~75/25 distribution respectively (see **Figure 4E.2**). An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage must be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see **Figure 4E.3**). In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the

caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the width of the anal fin (B-C). When an imaginary vertical midline would be drawn, the vertical length of the dorsal and anal fin from the body to the outer rim is again equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in case of the asymmetrical crowntail plakot (see **Figure 4E.3, left**) and equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in the symmetrical crowntail plakot (see **Figure 4E.3, right**).

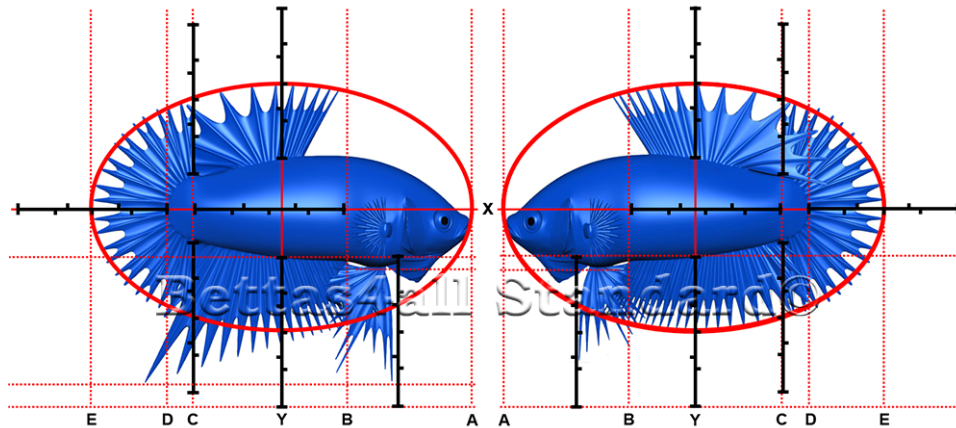


Figure 4E.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3** and **Figure 4E.4**).

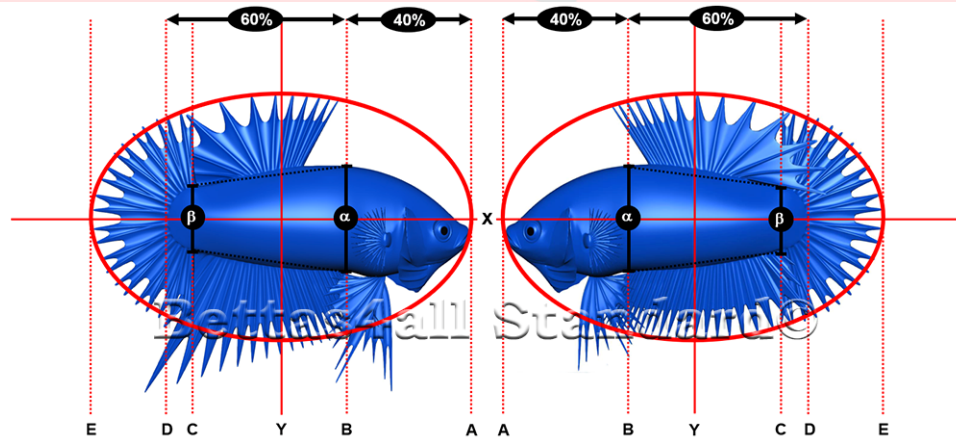


Figure 4E.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the crowntail plakot.

2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The ideal crowntail plakot caudal is “double-ray (DR)” and shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 40% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 20% reduction between the secondary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The overall form of the caudal fin of the crowntail plakot can be compared with the shape of a capital letter “D” (see **Figure 3E.5, left**). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are a mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has a 180-degree spread, straight rays and sharp corners. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not preferred over a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the

peduncle. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

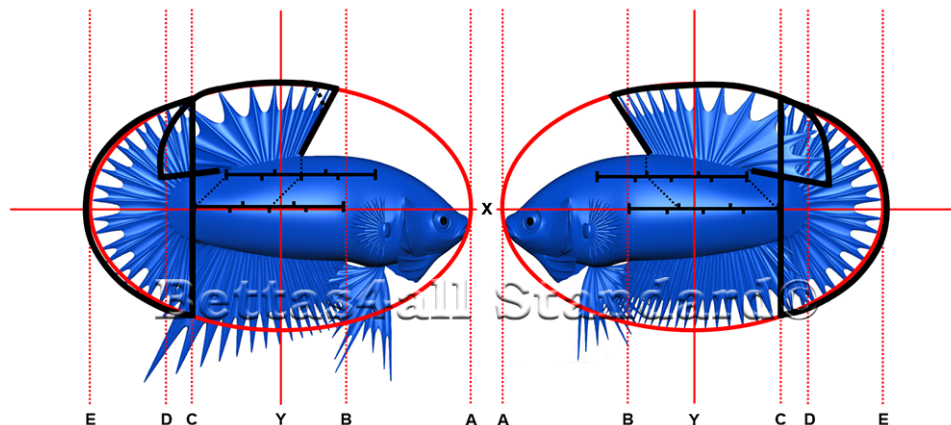


Figure 4E.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the crowntail plakot.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the crowntail plakot shows a 40% reduction in webbing between the rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight without any branching. The dorsal snaps open like a fan and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezoid. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in case of the asymmetrical crowntail plakot (see **Figure 4E.5, left**) and equal to 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) in the symmetrical crowntail plakot (see **Figure 4E.5, right**). The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slightly directed forward, and the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the crowntail plakot shows a 40% reduction in webbing between the primary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight without any branching. The anal fin of the crowntail plakot starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium. In the asymmetrical crowntail plakot, the longest ray of the anal fin clearly extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin (without a clear pointed tip) (see **Figure 4E.6, left**). In the symmetrical crowntail plakot the anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body where the length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin (see **Figure 4E.6, right**). In both the asymmetrical and symmetrical crowntail plakot, the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is directed forward and the back overlaps the lower part of the caudal. The volume and the capacity of the anal fin to open up during flaring is achieved by a moderate branching of the fin-rays (mainly primary raysplitting although secondary raysplitting sometimes also can be observed). The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a crowntail plakot is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the crowntail plakot should have a full volume with a clearly jagged appearance (see **Figure 4E.6, left**).

3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3** and **Figure 4E.6, right**). The pectoral fins of the crowntail plakot are D-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching with a clearly jagged appearance.

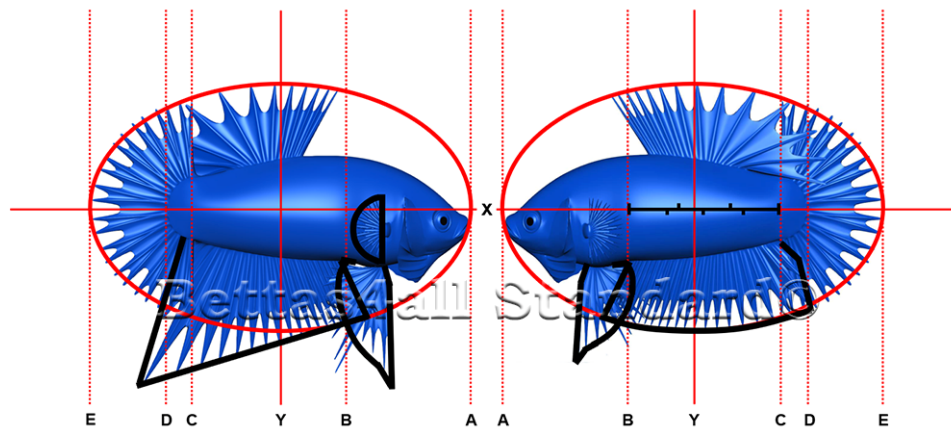


Figure 4E.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the crowntail plakot.

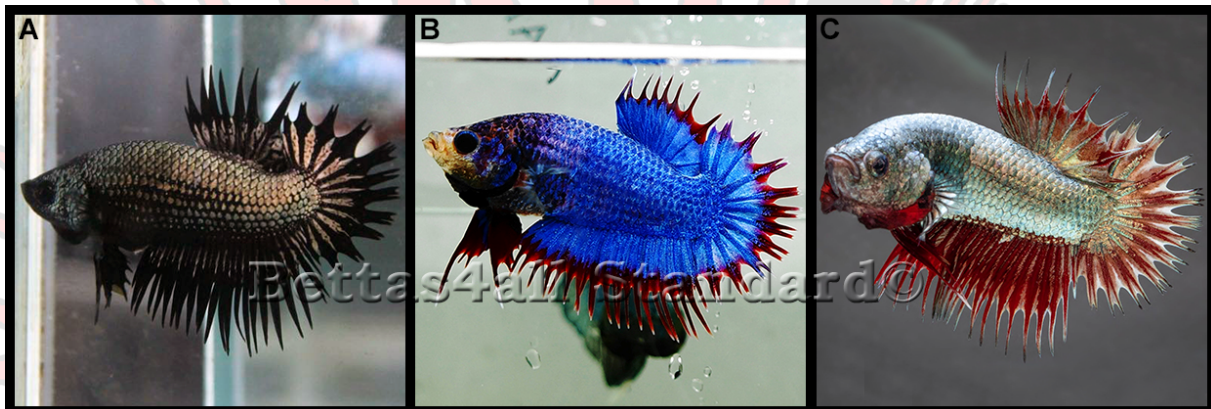


Figure 4E.7 Examples of crowntail plakot males

(A) was bred by Vasu Lertpradit (Thailand), (B) was bred by Romulo Fonseca Vieira Junior (Brazil) and (C) was bred by Alex Grimm (Germany).

Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.