

## Chapter 5A: Color Characteristics - Unicolor

### General remark:

*The Bettas4all Judging Team has the right to include colorpatterns which are not described in this standard but which classify as “unicolor” based on their appearance.*

*Please note that the figures shown in this Chapter are used to illustrate the various color variants. Most of the examples still exhibit points requiring improvement.*

In the “Unicolor” class, the color pattern of the fish consists of one single color. This means that body and finnage have the same solid, uniformly, distributed color. This with exception of the tips of the ventrals which are allowed to be white. Color coverage of the head, also called mask, is allowed but not a necessity.

Depending on the number of fish and color variations entered in a particular finnage variety, the Bettas4all Judging Team can decide to split the unicolor class into separate subclasses. This is only allowed when there are at least six fish of a certain sub variety which are entered by a minimum of two breeders and that the amount of (sub)classes does not exceed the maximum prizes made available by the organization (see **Chapter 2**).

**Table 5A.1, 5A.2 and 5A.3** give a hierarchical overview of the optional sub-classification of the unicolor class based on the presence or absence various color pigments on the body of the show Betta:

- **Individual color variation**
- **Darkbody:** Presence of black pigment (melanophores) on the body (black scaling).
- **Black-edged scaling:** Presence of black pigment limited to the outer rim of the scales on the body.
- **Lightbody:** Absence of the black pigment on the body.
- **Iridescent:** Presence of blue/green/yellow-reflecting crystal elements (iridophores) on the body.
- **Non-iridescent:** Absence of iridescence on the body.

**Table 5A.1**      *Optional subclasses of the unicolor class - Primary division individual color variations*

<b>Unicolor</b>	<b>Blue/green</b>	Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue.
		Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including copper and teal).
		Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue “dragons”.
	<b>Black</b>	
	<b>White</b>	Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
		Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
		Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and pastel green “dragons”.
	<b>Red</b>	<u>Lightbody and black-edged scaling.</u>
	<b>Orange</b>	<u>Lightbody and black-edged scaling.</u>
	<b>Yellow</b>	<u>Lightbody and black-edged scaling.</u>
	<b>Cellophane</b>	
	<b>Albino</b>	

Table 5A.2 Optional subclasses of the unicolor class - Primary division Darkbody vs. Lightbody

<b>Unicolor</b>	<b><u>Darkbody</u></b>	<b>Iridescent</b>	<b>Blue/green</b>	Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue.
				Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including copper and teal).
				Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue "dragons".
	<b><u>Black-edged scaling</u></b>	<b>Non-iridescent</b>	<b>Black</b>	
			<b>Red</b>	
			<b>Orange</b>	
	<b><u>Lightbody</u></b>	<b>Iridescent</b>	<b>White</b>	Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and pastel green "dragons".
		<b>Non-iridescent</b>	<b>Red</b>	
			<b>Orange</b>	
			<b>Yellow</b>	
			<b>Cellophane</b>	
			<b>Albino</b>	

Table 5A.3 Optional subclasses of the unicolor class - Primary division iridescent vs. non-iridescent

<b>Unicolor</b>	<b>Iridescent</b>	<b><u>Darkbody</u></b>	<b>Blue/green</b>	Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue.
				Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including copper and teal).
				Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue "dragons".
		<b><u>Lightbody</u></b>	<b>White</b>	Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
				Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and pastel green "dragons".
	<b>Non-iridescent</b>	<b><u>Darkbody</u></b>	<b>Black</b>	
			<b>Red</b>	
			<b>Orange</b>	
		<b><u>Lightbody</u></b>	<b>Yellow</b>	
			<b>Red</b>	
			<b>Orange</b>	
			<b>Yellow</b>	
			<b>Cellophane</b>	
			<b>Albino</b>	

This chapter describes the various colors and to which sub-classification they belong (see **Table 5A.1**, **5A.2** and **5A.3**).

## 1. Darkbody

### 1.1 Iridescent

The darkbody, iridescent class is characterized by a range of colors varying from blue to green. In this class the colors can be either non-metallic (see **Figure 5A.1**) or metallic, including “dragons” (see **Figure 5A.2**). The body and finnage must be uniformly colored without traces of opaque, red or any other type of pigment. The iridescent colors are often referred to as structural colors as they are the result of the light reflection from thin colorless crystal elements found inside cells called iridophores which are present on the surface of the body. The spread iridescence trait is responsible for the distribution of the iridescent colors over the body (with exception of the head). The head can be either classical “black head” or fully masked.

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are:

- Non-metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue.
- Metallic turquoise, steel blue and royal blue (including green, copper and teal).
- Turquoise, steel blue and royal blue based “dragons”.



**Figure 5A.1** Examples of darkbody – iridescent fish:  
Turquoise (A), steel blue (B) and royal blue (C)  
(A), (B) and (C) were bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands).



**Figure 5A.2** Examples of darkbody – iridescent fish:  
Homozygous metallic turquoise (A), copper (B) and teal (C)  
(A) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand), (B) and (C) were bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands).

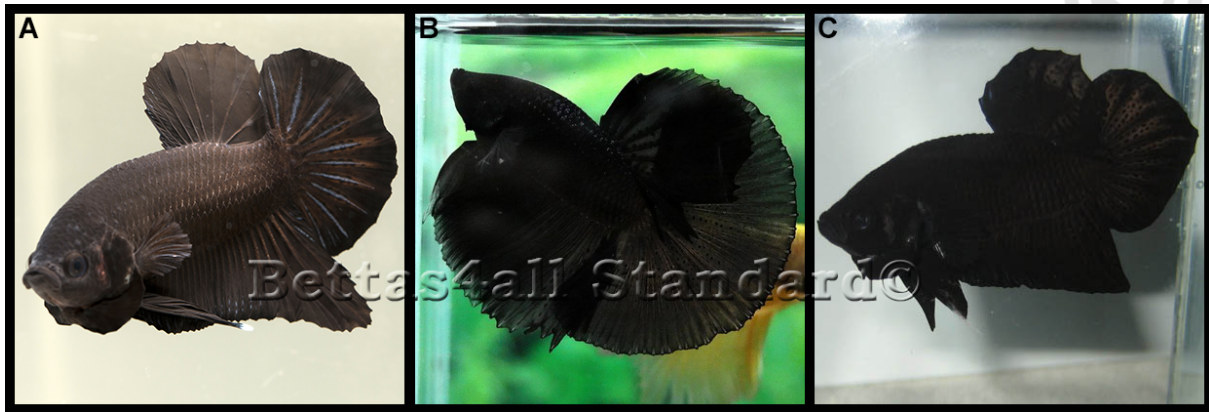
### 1.2 Non-Iridescent

The darkbody, non-iridescent class is characterized by an absence of iridescence. Ideally this should result in uniform, dark intense black color (see **Figure 5A.3**). The body and finnage must be uniformly colored without traces of (metallic) iridescence, opaque, red or any other type of pigment.

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are:

- Black





**Figure 5A.3** Examples of darkbody – non-iridescent fish:

**Black (A, B and C)**

(A) was bred by Bettina Sperl (Germany), (B) was bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand) and (C) breeder unknown.

## 2. Black-edged scaling

### 2.1 Non-iridescent

The black-edged scaling, non-iridescent class is characterized by black pigment limited to the outer rim of the scaling on the body and a total absence of iridescence (see **Figure 5A.4**). Because of the black pigment is limited to the outer rim of the scaling the underlying red, orange, yellow layer becomes clearly visible. In case the contrast between body and finnage becomes too big due to too much black pigment on the body, fish will be classified in the bicolor class (see **Chapter 5B**).

Some examples of black-edged scaling, non-iridescent variants belonging to this subclass are:

A. Red, orange, and yellow.



**Figure 5A.4** Examples of black-edged scaling – non-iridescent fish:

**Black-edged scaling red (A), orange (B) and yellow (C)**

(A) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands), (B) was bred by Sumet Chaonahuitak (Thailand) and (C) breeder unknown.

## 3. Lightbody

### 3.1 Iridescent

The lightbody, iridescent class is characterized by an absence of black pigment. In this class the colors can be either non-metallic or metallic, including “dragons”. The body and finnage must be uniformly colored without traces of black, red or any other type of pigment. Ideally this should result in an uniform white color (see **Figure 5A.5**). A slight steel blue wash is allowed. Please note that royal blue and turquoise based pastels and/or opaques show a blue/green wash and are less favored than the steel blue based pastels and opaques which have a clean white appearance.

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are:

- Non-metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
- Metallic pastel and/or opaque white, blue and green.
- Pastel and/or opaque white, pastel blue and green “dragons”.



**Figure 5A.5** Examples of Lightbody – iridescent colored fish:  
Opaque white (A), metallic pastel white (B) and metallic opaque (C)  
(A) and (C) were bred by Kit Watchara (Thailand), (B) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands).

### 3.2 Non-Iridescent

The lightbody, non-iridescent class is characterized by a total absence of black pigment and iridescence. Because of the absence of these dominant layers, this results either in a uniform red, orange, yellow or colorless appearance. Please note that in the case of a sufficiently large color contrast between body and finnage, red, orange and yellow Bettas have to be reclassified to the bicolor class (see **Chapter 5B**).

Some examples of unicolored variants belonging to this subclass are (see **Figure 5A.6**):

- Red, orange, yellow.
- Cellophane (clear).
- Albino.



**Figure 5A.6** Examples of Lightbody – non-iridescent colored fish:  
Lightbody red (A), orange (B) and yellow (C)  
(A) was bred by Mareike Reimers (Germany), (B) was bred by Jean-Michel Jeannerat (Switzerland) and (C) was bred by Akesit FortuneBetta (Thailand); Picture by Mareike Reimers (Germany).