Chapter 3I: Finnage Characteristics - Crowntail

General remark:
A betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 33% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins.

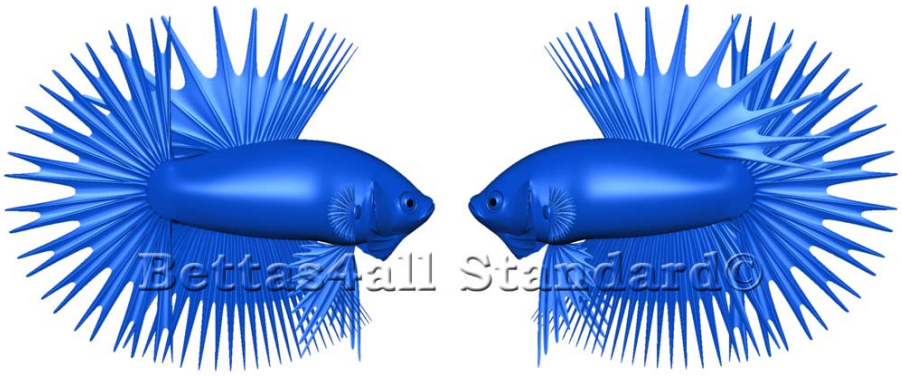


Figure 3I.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal crowntail (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

1. General appearance

1.1 Condition
As in all other show betta (*see* ***Chapter 3***).

1.2 Deportment
As in all other show betta (*see* ***Chapter 3***).

1.3 Overall balance
The ideal crowntail has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image (*see* ***Figure 3I.2***). The contour of the ideal crowntail fits an oval of which the width is approximately 1.2-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.

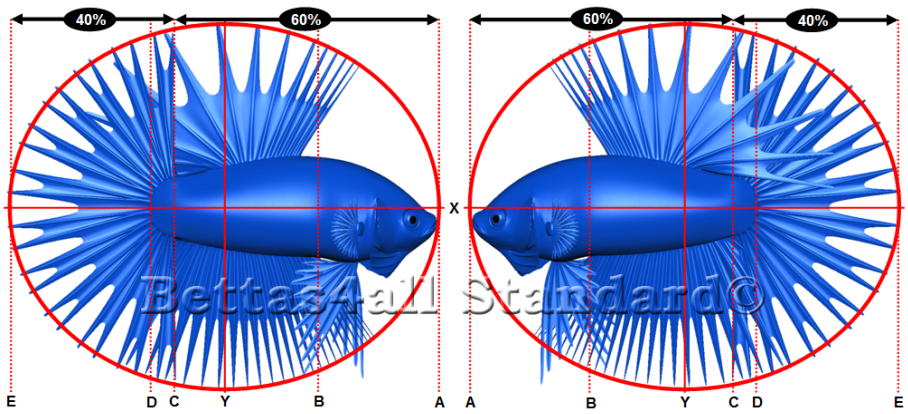


Figure 3I.2 The contour of the ideal crowntail fits an oval. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midline as well as vertical line A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal crowntail.

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 (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~60/40 distribution respectively (*see* ***Figure 3I.2***).

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An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage has to be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as an important marker to indicate the desired proportions (*see* ***Figure 3I.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 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 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 5/6 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).

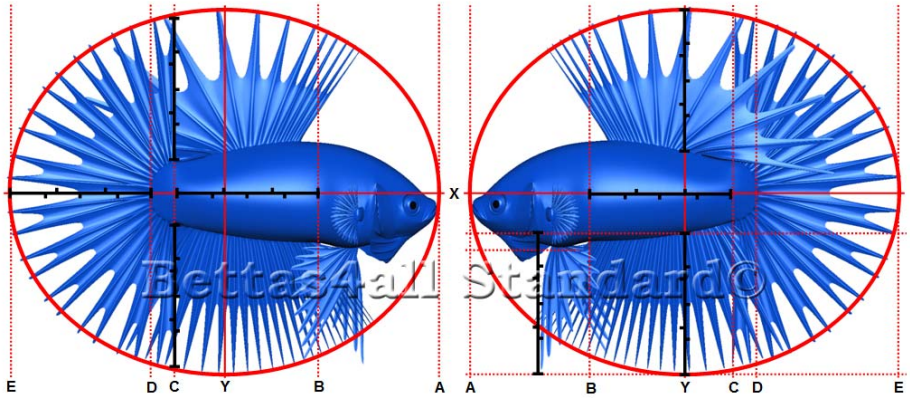


Figure 3I.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

2. Body

2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show betta (see ***Chapter 3*** and ***Figure 3I.4***).

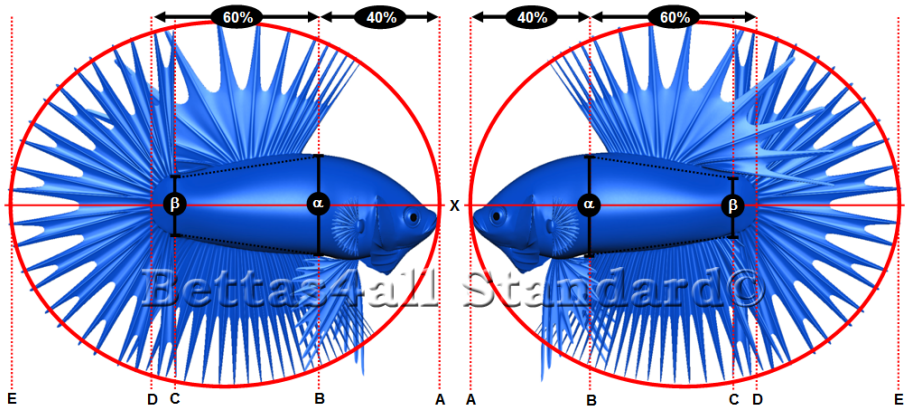


Figure 3I.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the crowntail.

2.2. Scalation

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

3. Finnage

3.1 Caudal fin

The ideal crowntail caudal is “double-ray (DR)” and shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 50% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 25% reduction between the secondary rays thereby creating a crown-like appearance. The protruding rays ideally should be thick and straight (with exception of the crossray variants as described below). The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The overall form of the caudal fin of the crowntail can be compared with the shape of a capital letter “D” (*see* ***Figure 3I.5, left***). The caudal fin has a symmetrical appearance which means that it could be divided into two equal parts which are mirror-images of each other across a horizontal midline (X). The ideal caudal fin has straight rays (with exception to the crossrays) and a 180-degree spread. A spread of more than 180-degrees is not

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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 (with exception of the crossray variants as described below).

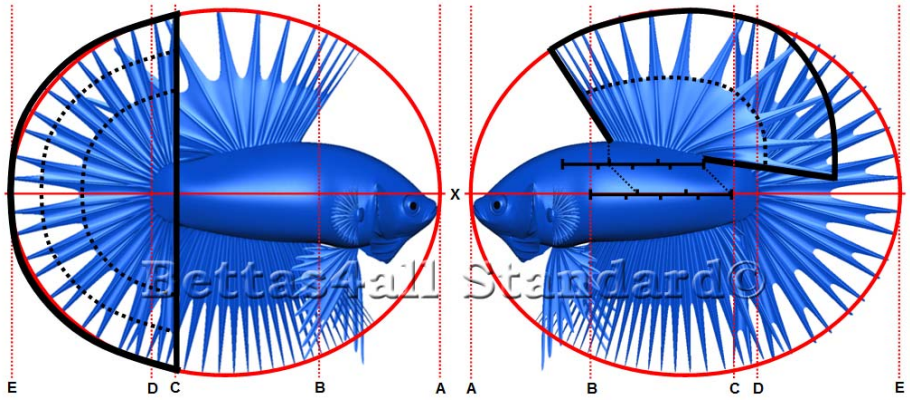


Figure 3I.5 Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the crowntail.

3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of the crowntail shows a 50% 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 (*see* ***Figure 3I.5, right***). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be 2/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) which can be achieved by a slight increase of rays (ranging from 9 to 14 rays). The rays in the back of the dorsal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The rays in the front of the dorsal must be slighlty 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 shows a 50% 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 starts at the thickest point of the body (B) and has the shape of a modified scalene trapezium (*see* ***Figure 3I.6, right***). The anal fin runs approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly 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 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 is as in all other show betta (*see* ***Chapter 3***). Additionally, the ventrals of the crowntail should have a full volume with a clearly jagged appearance (*see* ***Figure 3I.6, left***).

3.5 Pectoral fins

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

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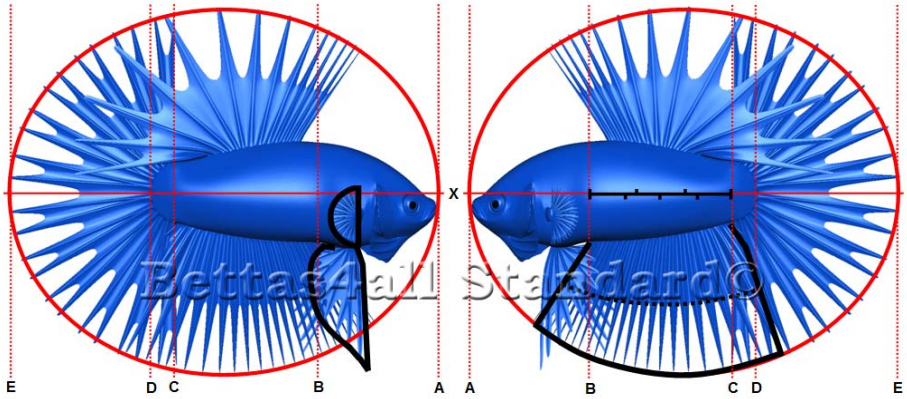


Figure 3I.6 ***Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the crowntail.***

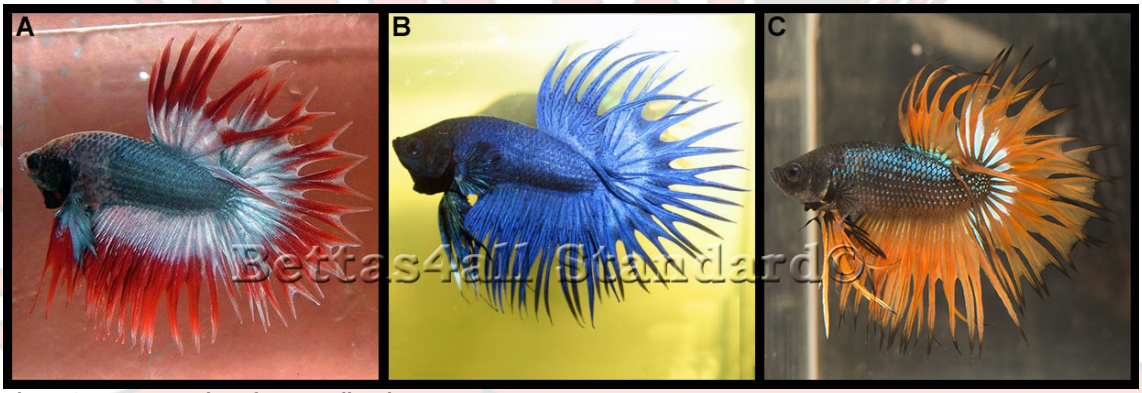


Figure 3I.7 ***Examples of crowntail males.***
*(**A**) was bred by Stingrays (Singapore), (**B**) was bred by Joty Amadja (Jotya; Indonesia) and (**C**) was bred by Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany).*
Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

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