



Various Shapes of Betta's Fin Tail

By Megan Woodrow





Its Biography

The Betta fish, also known as the Siamese fighting fish, is one of the most standard aquarium pets. This species lives approximately two to five years when being kept in captivity, and are also carnivorous. They also are acknowledged for their vibrant colors and flowing fins – an example of this is the halfmoon betta fish (you will see the image of this fish later in this article). Betta fish descend from the scientific term "Betta Splendens", which is created from Malay term, "ikan bettah"as "persistent fish". Malay is a language used in Malaysia and Indonesia. The name, Betta, refers to a legendary warrior tribe called "Bettah" that had a fierce nature, plus the name, Splenden, emanates from the Latin word, splendeo, defining shine. That may be translated to a "beautiful warrior", but it is not the official meaning.

Its' origins can be traced back to the 1800s in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and regions of China. Betta fish were first found in rice paddies, ditches, ponds, and small water streams. During that period, betta fish were bred to develop fighting instinct, meaning to be prepared to fight. This explains why you hear the common saying, "never put two male betta together". Betta fish were always known for their aggressive behavior, and that still remains the same today. However, these wild ancestors of the betta fish are not the same as today's betta fish – they are only wild roots of the present betta fish. In the past, the betta fish were small-finned and dim greenish-brown colored. Due to selective breeding, betta fish are now long-finned and very vivid in color.

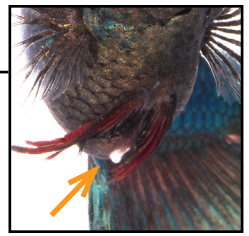


MALE



FEMALE

Egg Spot

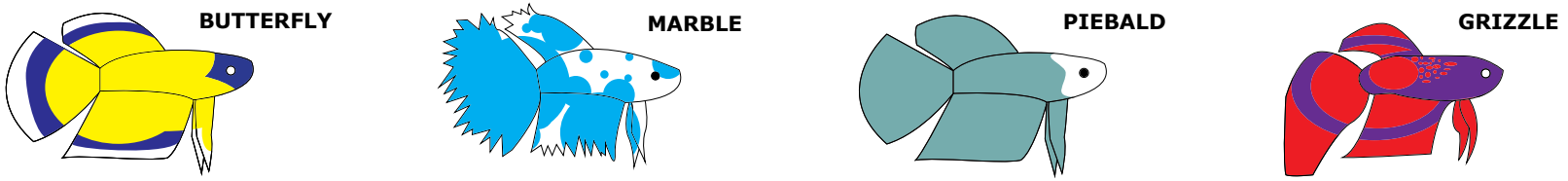


Male Versus Female Betta Fish

Comparing male and female betta fish, male betta fish are more gorgeous and attractive than female betta. Overall, female betta fish are less vibrant, but over time, breeders began to breed female betta fish in a variety of brighter colors. The female betta fish's fin tail is shorter or less eye-catching than the male betta fish's. Additionally, the female betta fish has a shorter and more stout body than the male betta fish. It is also fatter than the male betta fish. Moreover, you can identify that the betta fish is female by pinpointing a small white spot called egg spot behind the ventral (back) fin. The white dot only exists on the females, and it indicates that the female is ready to breed. You can compare the male and female crowntail betta fishes in the images above.

The Colors of Betta Fish

The most distinguishable feature of the Betta Fish is its wide range of colors, such as green, red, blue, turquoise, yellow, orange, bright blue with pink, cream and white, copper, and many more. These colors can be merged to create an amazing display of colors, including solid-colored and patterned. Examples of these colored patterns are butterfly, marble, piebald, and grizzle. The butterfly pattern is a solid-colored body and the fins contains two or sometimes three color bands. The marble pattern shows when the body is solid-colored, but has little to no colorings in same spots. As the betta fish gets older, the marble pattern can drastically change in color or pattern. Being piebald means having a pale-flesh-colored face, no matter what the body color is. Lastly, grizzle shows random flecking, spotting, or peppering of any iridescent (showing luminous colors that seem to change when seen from different angles) color. There are so many different colors and patterns betta fish have to show.

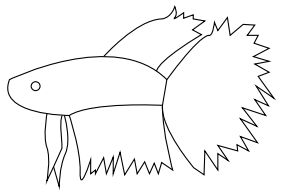


Betta Fish’s Tail Shapes

The fins of the betta fish are undoubtedly one of the remarkable aspects of this fish; different tail shapes and patterns belong only to the male betta fish. There are many different fin tail types and patterns of the betta fish. This article will focus on the most common tail fin types.

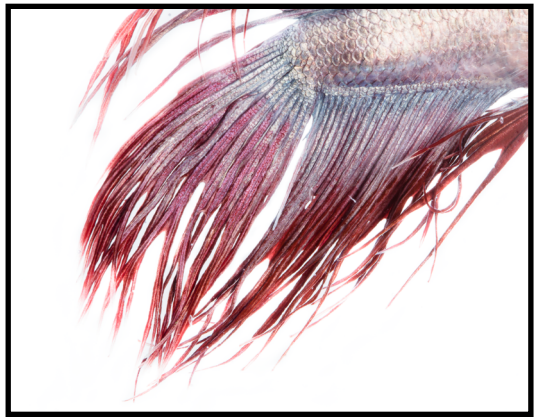
Crowntail Betta

Crowntails obtain their name from their extended thorny fins that are jagged and frilled. Its fins make rays that extend outward, giving them an unique look. This species is distinctive and popular, and is commonly found in numerous fish stores.



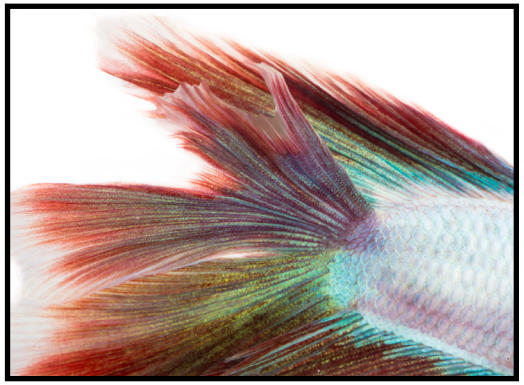




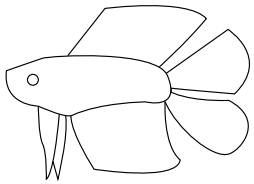








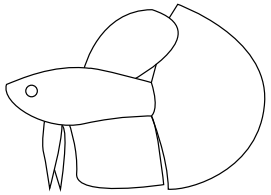




Double-Tail Betta

Double-tails have a fin tail that splits into two pieces, which gives the appearance of having two individual tails.

Halfmoon Betta



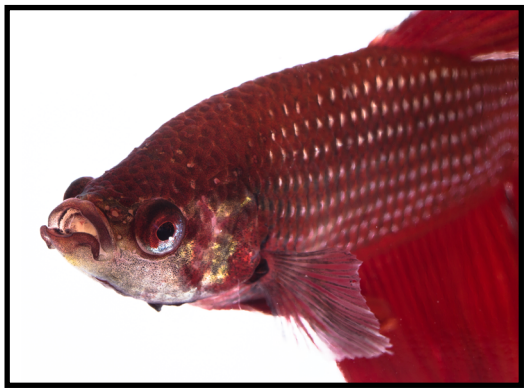
Halfmoons obtain their name from their beautiful caudal tail, which is in the shape of a half-moon and spreads at a 180-degree angle. For instance, the Halfmoon's tail appears as a large capital D, or a halfmoon/half circle . There is another species very similar to the Halfmoon, which is the Full-Moon Betta. Full-Moon bettas are known for having a double tail that reaches 180-degree, whereas the Halfmoon has a single tail that reaches 180-degrees. It is acceptable to use the name "Full-Moon", because it has two halves or two half moons, making it a full moon.







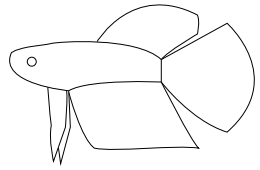






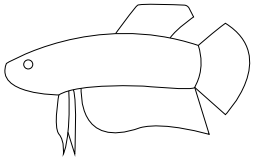
Delta Betta

These bettas are similar to the Halfmoon Bettas, but have some slight differences. Delta bettas were supposed to be made to be a Halfmoon betta, but ends up with different size and shape of the tail. This species' tail fin doesn't reach the 180-degree angle mark like a Halfmoon, so it's considered a Delta. Their tail fans straight out from their body and it does not arch down or up like Halfmoons and Veiltails.

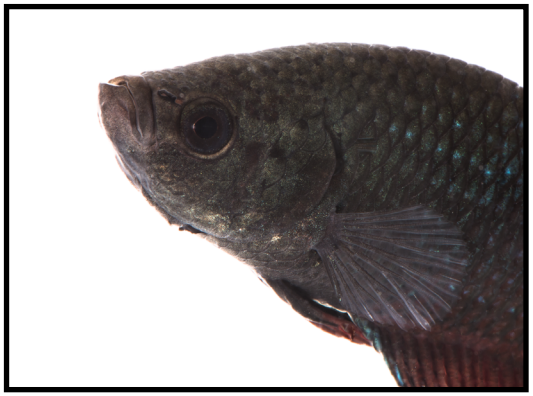


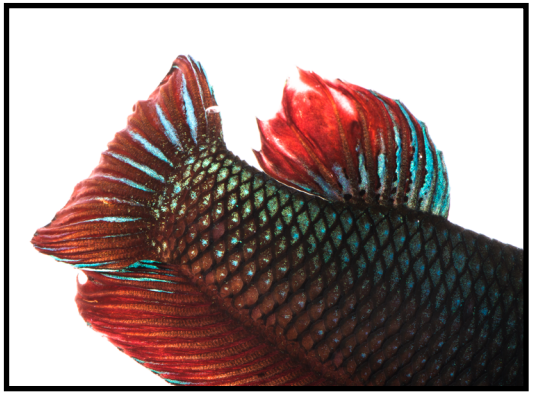
Plakat

These species can also be known as a short-finned betta. The name, Plakat, comes from a Thai word, Plakad, which is defined as a fighting fish. These species originate from the original bettas that were discovered a very long time ago.
It qualifies for its strong body, large jaws, and small fins. These species can be labeled as “King Betta” in several pet stores.







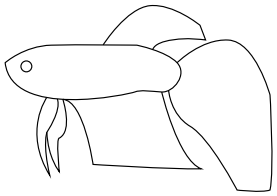












Veiltail Betta

Veiltails have a tail that displays two unsymmetrical rays. Its tail arches up and curves down like a woman’s decorative veil thus the origination of the name. This betta is the most common to be purchased in fish stores.

More Bettas



Double-Tail
Halfmoon Betta



Veiltail Betta



Veiltail Betta



Butterfly Betta



Halfmoon
Double-Tail
Plakat Betta

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Shapes of Fin Tail

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<http://bettasource.com/bettas/colors/>

<https://bioweb.uwlax.edu/bio203/f2013/flackey_rich/>



Equipment Used

- Nikon D610
- Nikon 60mm Marco Lens
- Nikon 105mm Marco Lens
- Canon EOS 6D
- Canon 65mm 1-5x Macro Lens
- Canon 100mm Marco Lens
- Fiber Optic Light
- 2 Profoto Monolights
- Medium Softbox
- Pocketwizard

Studio





Contact the Author

The photographer is Megan Woodrow.

She is a third year student, studying in Biomedical Photographic Communications at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. She is interested in gathering new experiences and knowledge within the major and enjoying being absorbed in microscopic life.

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