

## Picta Complex

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

### 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.

Deporment: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## Simplex



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

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## Ocellata



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

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## Prima



Prima is also a recently described species which is becoming more available. Adult size is 3 ½ inches.

Department: 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.

## Raja



Another recently described species that is readily imported. Adult size is 5 inches.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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.

## Channooides



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.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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

## Mandor



A newly described species very similar to foerschi. Adult size is 3 inches.

Department: 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.

## 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.

Department: 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

Department: 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. Finnacle 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".

