

Category: Crowntail



Malcom's Cross-ray CT - Photo by Philip Ngo

**Description:**

Crowntails are a type of "fringe-finned" domestic betta (*Betta splendens*, *B. imbellis*, *B. smaragdina* and any of their hybrids) having fin rays that extend significantly beyond the webbed portion of the fins. The supporting webbing around the fin rays is reduced and the rays protrude past the edges of the fin membrane. The result is a scalloped appearance or the appearance of hyper-extended rays as seen in Crowntails where the webbing is substantially reduced.

A Crowntail is not the same as a "combtail" or just another fringe-finned betta. It must be emphasized that fringed-fin bettas can and should be shown in other color classes where the extended rays ARE NOT counted against them.

Ray extensions should be thick, straight and prominent. Slightly outwardly curved extensions in caudals with double-rays are desirable to give the "cross-ray" effect.

**Definition:**

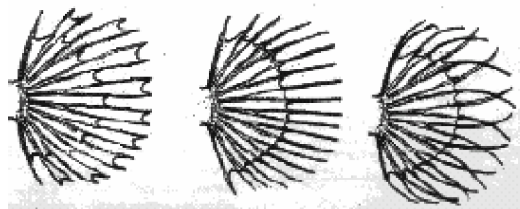
For the purposes of judging and placement in this class, male ***Crowntails shall be defined as bettas exhibiting at least 33% reduction in webbing versus ray length in EACH of the three primary fins (caudal, anal and dorsal)***. For females, the minimum is 25%. This requirement must be demonstrated in all three primary fins but does NOT need to be exhibited in ALL rays.

**Crowntail Types:**

The following illustration shows variations of webbing reduction commonly exhibited by Crowntails.

**Types of Crowntail Caudal Ray extensions**

Double Ray      Single Ray      Cross Ray



Drawing by Gene Lucas

Double Ray – webbing is reduced at two levels; one between a pair of rays and the other (more profoundly) between two branches. 4-ray and 8-ray extensions are less common and the effect is almost always confined to the caudal fin.

Single Ray – Web margins are, ideally, uniform and webbing reduction is equal between primary rays and rays with branches.

Cross Ray – In the schematic, this is manifested by pairs of primary rays which curve over each other.

**Examples:**

The fish below exceeds the basic requirements by having at least 50% web reduction in all 3 primary fins.



Photo by Philip Ngo

This fish also shows the cross-ray effect as does the first picture at the beginning of this standard. In the case of the dorsal fin and the anal fin, the extended portion of the ray is longer than portion surrounded by the webbing. The ventral fins also demonstrate a >50% reduction of the webbing.

The following picture shows a fish with double ray extension but the rays branch again to two rays – a so-called double-double ray (DDR). The effect is well-spread out throughout the caudal fin. The caudal spread

is also exceptional demonstrating the 180° spread conforming to our general standards.



Photo from Philip Ngo

## FINNAGE REQUIREMENTS

### CAUDAL

The caudal should display the splendor of a crown. The caudal rays should display at least double ray extension. 4 rays or more extensions are to be regarded as neutral. Caudal rays extension can either be straight or curved to cross for double-rays. Caudal spread requirements as for other single tails except for straight edge requirements. Straight caudal rays are acceptable but V rays and outward curving rays as in cross-rays are the preferred types.

Random Rays are single protruding rays in a double-ray or 4-ray Crowntail and are faulted.

### ANAL

A slight gradual curling of the rays are acceptable but parallel and straight rays are preferred.

### DORSAL

A slight gradual curling of the rays are acceptable but kinks and curls faulted per the General Fault guide.

### VENTRAL

For Crowntails, the pair of ventral fins has to display a jagged appearance

### Balloon Effect

A finnage characteristic which seems to be unique to the Crowntails is the "balloon" effect. This can be described as additional webbing between the primary or secondary rays to give a parachute-like effect. Additional webbing between the double rays of a double ray caudal are characterized as "balok" – these have a triangular shape. Photos do not seem to do this effect justice – the way the folds move as the fish swims is what makes the effect so

special. If evenly distributed, it is an acceptable but not preferred characteristic.



BALLOON CROWNTAIL – Photo by Hermanus Haryanto

## Special Considerations in Judging Crowntails:

### Desirable Traits for Crowntails:

1. 33% reduction in webbing material for each primary fin is a minimum for males.
2. 25% reduction in webbing material for each primary fin is a minimum for females.
3. Ray extensions should be uniform in balance, length and spacing.
4. Dorsal and anal ray extensions should be straight. A slightly proportionate curve toward the rear is acceptable.
5. Double ray or 4-ray extensions in the caudal fin only.
6. 50% reduction in webbing material in all three primary fins is IDEAL



Female CT – Overall Good Quality but marginal web reduction at caudal to meet standard – Photo from Philip Ngo

## FAULT GUIDE

The General Standards outlined in this chapter shall apply for Crowntails. Fin Curl, ideal 180° spread for caudal fin, minimum size requirement, etc., are covered in the fault guide. Color traits delineated in the Special standards apply to Crowntails.

Below are additional considerations for Crowntails:

#### SLIGHT FAULTS

1. Ray extensions slightly thinning
2. Ray extensions displaying only single ray extension
3. Ray extension splits slightly out of proportion
4. Single "balloon" or balog folds
5. Balloon/balog effect present but missing between a few rays.

#### MINOR FAULTS

1. Ray extensions of different non-uniform length
2. Ray extensions displaying random rays
3. Curled or bent extended rays
4. Thinned out extended rays
5. Ray extension splits out of proportion
6. Ventrals lack jagged appearance
7. 1 Broken ray extension
8. Several random balloon / balog folds
9. Balloon/balog effect present but missing between ~1/3 of rays.

#### MAJOR FAULTS

1. More than 1 broken ray extension
2. For fish with balloon / balog effect - distributed randomly over 1/3 to 2/3 of caudal
3. For fish with balloon / balog effect - present on only one fin

#### SEVERE FAULTS

1. Ray extensions <33% in one primary fin (<25% for females)

#### DISQUALIFICATION

1. Ray extensions <33% in 2 or 3 fins (25% for females)

Singletail and Doubletail Crowntails are to be judged in the same color classes for Crowntails.

Fish that qualify as Crowntails as defined in this standard **MUST** be shown as Crowntails in an IBC sanctioned International show. The only exceptions are for Form or Color Variations.