# GROUP--SINGLE COLORED BETTAS

Single colored Bettas show only one color on all body and fin surfaces, and in only one shade. There are two major subgroups: Single Dark Color, and Single Light Color. These are further divided into specific Types for each single color. The ideal single colored Betta shows no color other than the one naming the Type (except for the color observed in the eye pupil and gills). Beyond general Betta characteristics that always apply, the primary concern of judges in evaluating this type of Betta, is the uniformity, density, and nature of the color. In some cases a particular shade is more desirable and will be specified. Some of the Guides will show where to place "shades" of the primary color, but they cannot cover the subtle variant shades. Judges must subjectively make determinations about color shading. Low contrast is important in all cases for Single Colored Bettas. The color should be rated by directly shining a flashlight on it. The flashlight must not contain a color lens, nor should the color be assessed by shining the flashlight through the fins from the rear. That is okay when looking for an "invisible" fin wash, but not when judging shade. Make sure that lighting is good enough to make accurate color judgements.

## GROUP CHARACTERISTIC--Single color
## Absence of the single color pattern is a disqualifying fault.

## SUBGROUP--Single Dark Color

The term "dark" refers to the undercoating of black pigment that these Bettas have beneath the color that names the individual Type. The color names can be misleading. As an example, RED is often thought of as being, by definition "dark"--however, it is not the RED, but the RED WITH THE DARK UNDERCOATING that makes such a fish "dark". A Red Betta without that undercoating of black would be classified as a "Light Single Colored" Betta. NOTE: In recent years red strains without a black pigment undercoat have been established. These Bettas exibit and increase of red pigment that can make it difficult to discern a dark undercoat and phenotypically represent a "dark" color. THIS RED TYPE HAS A TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO THE SUBGROUP SINGLE DARK COLOR REQUIREMENT OF AN UNDERCOATING OF BLACK PIGMENT, AND MAY BE SHOWN IN THE EXISTING RED CLASS.

## General Basis of Faults of the Dark Single Colored Bettas:

Colors not applicable to this Subgroup (dark) are faulted if they appear to any degree on any of the fish of this type. The principles which determine the arrangement of the fault charts found in this portion of the text are:

---Light colors are faulted on Dark subgroup Bettas.
---Iridescence is faulted on non-iridescent category Bettas.
---If a second color is present--the higher the contrast, the more severe the fault.
---The degree to which a second color intrudes also affects the severity of the fault.

## SUBGROUP CHARACTERISTIC = DARK UNDERCOATING
## Absence of the dark undercoating is a disqualifying fault.

## CATEGORY--Non-Iridescent

### Subcategory—Non-Opaque

#### TYPE - Red

A brilliant red is desired. Judges should be strict in accessing color quality and uniformity. Red was at one time perhaps the most fully developed and set of all the dark single colors. Bettas exhibiting the most even shade body to fins of brilliant red are given preference. Because red is a member of both non-iridescent and non-opaque categories, even a slight appearance of iridescence (including metallic) or opaque is a serious deficiency. Any touch of color other than red is a fault to some degree, as determined by the Judge using the IBC color type system.


**Hermanus Haryanto** **Sarawut Angkunanawut** **Peter Goettner**

## **EXCEPTION TO DARK BODY RULE

## SUBGROUP=SINGLE LIGHT COLOR

**A temporary exception is given to light body based reds that meet the standards ideal for red color, and are now allowed to compete in the red class for the time being. The fish that comes closest to the ideal red color standard, all else being equal, will be given the higher placing in the class. Reds that are obvious light body bicolors should be moved to the bicolor class.**

## CATEGORY— Non-Iridescent

### Subcategory—Non-Opaque

### TYPE - RED

Just as red bettas have been developed from dark-bodied lines, red strains have been developed from light-bodied bi-color (cambodian) lines. These fish lack the dark-bodied undercoating and often have cream or flesh colored parts on the head whereas reds with dark bodied undercoating would have a dark or olive coloring. Other than this mark of distinction, the light-bodied red can be difficult to distinguish from the dark-bodied red. As with yellow and orange, judges must beware of substantial contrast between the body and fin colors - unless reclassified to bicolor, disqualify.


**Peter Goettner** **Sarawut**

Color faults of Red Bettas:

1. White ventrals (slight)
2. Color missing from pectorals (slight)
3. Black scales (minor unless extensive in which case it can be major; the judge should consider reclassing to Bicolor if severe)
4. Lighter shade of red on body vs. fins (minor unless excessive in which case it can be major; the judge should consider reclassing to Bicolor if severe)
5. Black edges on fins (minor)
6. Cream or flesh color on the head (minor unless extensive in which case it can be major)
7. Clear edges or streaks on fins (minor)
8. Presence of yellow or orange (major)
9. Black spots, streaks or patches (major)
10. Presence of Iridescence (Major if only a few rays or scales)
11. Presence of Iridescence (Severe – if extensive, the Judge should consider reclassing to Multicolor)

12. Presence of Metallic iridescence (Severe – can be major if relegated to a few scales or fin rays)
13. Presence of Opaque (disqualifying fault; severe if restricted to ventrals)

## CATEGORY-NON-IRIDESCENT
### Subcategory—Non-Opaque
### TYPE – Black

The ideal color is a very dark, dense, "black mollie" color. Other than green, black is the least fully set of the dark single colors. This is largely due to the requirement to breed for black without using the normally infertile black females. Some lines, for example, have used steel blue females extensively and thus, not surprisingly, have led to blacks with considerable iridescence present. This is particularly unfortunate since black; by its category definition is a non-iridescent color. As in Red, the presence of iridescence or opaque is serious. Because the iridescence problem is an offshoot of breeding problems, the presence of steel blue iridescence is not rated as seriously as in Red.
NOTE: A relatively recently developed (2003) combination of True Black and Black Lace provides "melano" females that are fertile. This type is called, "Double Black."

**Subtype--True Black**
A dark, "pitch" black is preferred - usually referred to as "melano." These often have the desired dark black on the fins but suffer from iridescence on the body. The latter must be faulted according to the extent and type of iridescence.

**Suporn Khuhom**


**Kelson Say**

**Subtype--Black Lace**
A black betta with translucent webbing between the fin rays. This type of black is much less desirable.

**Subtype--Double Black**
As for all blacks, a dark, "pitch" black is preferred without iridescence on the body and fins.


**C. Emery**

Color faults of Black Bettas:

1. White ventrals (slight)
2. Color missing from pectorals (slight)
3. Red on fins (minor unless extensive in which case it can be major or the judge can move to multicolor or butterfly class)
4. Clear on edges or streaks on fins (minor – can be major if extensive)
5. Presence of steel Iridescence (Major – if extensively covering body, should be moved to dark-body bi-colors)

6. Presence of green or blue Iridescence (Severe – if extensively covering body, should be moved to bi-colors) consider moving the Betta to the Multicolor class.)
7. Presence of metallic Iridescence (Severe – if extensively covering body, should be moved to Bicolor or Multicolor class if uneven spread). Intrusion of Metallic on the body can manifest itself as spots of yellow against a black background.
8. Presence of "Rust" (Severe but must be obvious)
9. Presence of Opaque is a Disqualifying fault unless restricted to ventrals)