

Siamese Betta—Guide to Variations

Betta Splendens

Siamese Bettas are often the first pet fish for many people, as they are colourful and quite easy to look after. Siamese Bettas have been selectively bred for many decades, resulting in a wide range of colours, tail types and patterns, making them one of the most exciting and fascinating fish to keep.

Males are distinguished from females by their longer fins, larger frame and, more brightly coloured body. They are aggressive towards other males. Female bettas are smaller in size and much less aggressive. Although their bodies are still colourful, their vividness is less impressive than their male counterparts, and their fins tend to be more rounded and smaller. However female bettas are a great addition to a community tank.

You'll find below a brief overview of the most popular types:

Veil Tail

The most common type of betta, and the type most frequently sold, often under the name of Siamese Betta, or simply Betta. It has a long tail (caudal fin) with an extended anal and dorsal fin, which trails down below the fish.



Half Moon

This variety is characterised by having the full 180 degrees spread when flared, creating a "D" shape with the caudal fin.



Crown Tail

The Crown tail has become a very popular tail type variation. The rays are extended to altering degrees on all fins, which gives the fish a spiky or "crown like" appearance.



Double Tail

The Double tail variation has a dorsal fin equal in length to the anal fin, and two distinct caudal lobes. This gives it the appearance of having two tails.



Short Fin or Plakat

The short finned Betta is the most directly related to wild *Betta splendens*. They generally have elongated ventral fins, a well-rounded small caudal fin and a sharply pointed anal fin with subtle colours along the body. They can be mistaken for female Bettas.



Dragon

The distinctive look of the dragon betta is characterised by a broad, solid silver and white metallic layer on the scales which almost resembles armour or dragon scales. It can be referred to as a dragon scale betta and is a fairly new betta variant.



Rose Tail / full moon

A Rose tail is an extreme Halfmoon with a large amount of branching on its fins giving the tail a 'full moon' like effect with an appearance of a rose ruffled edge when fully displayed.



Cambodian

A Cambodian Betta has a pale, at times almost clear body offset with solid coloured fins. Cambodians often have a light pink or reddish colour body although, as our photo illustrates, this is not always the case.



Deltas and Super Deltas

Delta's and Super Delta's are very similar to Half moons but their tails have less than a 180 degrees spread when flared.



Elephant ear

A relatively new variant. They have enlarged pectoral fins, which give the appearance of big ears similar to that of an elephants. This betta has become one of the most popular new varieties.



Note—All of the bettas pictured here are males.

Glossary of Terms

Anal Fin:	The fin underneath the fish.
Dorsal Fin:	The fin on top of the fish.
Ventral or Pelvic Fins:	Are a set of fins that are located below the pectoral fins. They assist in the fish's movement.
Caudal Fin:	This is the fin at the back of the fish, often called the tail.

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