**MARBLE MONSTER**

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| [**Scientific classification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy_(biology))**[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Taxonomy/Betta)** | |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Actinopterygii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actinopterygii) |
| Order: | [Anabantiformes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anabantiformes) |
| Family: | [Osphronemidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gourami) |
| Genus: | [*Betta*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betta) |
| Species: | ***B. splendens*** |
| [**Binomial name**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature) | |
| ***Betta splendens***  [Regan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Tate_Regan), 1910 | |

The **marble monster** is a [freshwater fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freshwater_fish) native to [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand) (formerly [Siam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siam)) and present in neighboring [Cambodia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia), [Laos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laos), [Malaysia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia), and [Vietnam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam). While colloquially known and marketed in the [global aquarium trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquarium_trade) as the "betta", it is one of 73 [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species) in the [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus) [*Betta*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betta)*.* Siamese fighting fish are among the most popular and widely available [aquarium fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquarium_fish) in the world, due to their varied and vibrant colour, diverse [morphology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morphology_(biology)), and relatively low maintenance.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siamese_fighting_fish#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siamese_fighting_fish#cite_note-3)

Mostly concentrated in Thailand's [Chao Phraya river basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chao_Phraya_river), bettas were discovered in the still waters of canals, rice paddies and floodplains, where they are still found; they have been kept and bred since at least the mid-19th century, and possibly much earlier.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siamese_fighting_fish#cite_note-FishBase-4) Their famously vibrant colours, large and flowy fins, and aggressive behaviour are the result of generations of intensive [artificial selection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selective_breeding), for which they are sometimes known as "designer fish of the aquatic world".[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siamese_fighting_fish#cite_note-5)

Bettas are well known for being highly territorial, with males prone to attacking each other if housed in the same tank; without a means of escape, this will usually result in the death of one or both fish. Female bettas can also become territorial towards one other in too small of an aquarium.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siamese_fighting_fish#cite_note-6) Bettas are exceptionally tolerant of low oxygen levels and poor water quality, owing to their special [labyrinth organ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anabantoidei), a characteristic unique to the suborder *[Anabantoidei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anabantoidei" \o "Anabantoidei)* that allows for the intake of air.