

Quamtana sp. ZFMK Ar 12707 aff. *kabale*: a small hothouse Pholcidae spider new to Britain

By Richard Gallon & Tegwyn Davies All photos © Richard Gallon.

During a recent Bioblitz at the National Botanic Gardens Wales near Carmarthen (19th July 2025), we explored the Tropical House (SN51941812) looking for spiders to add to the event's list. A quick search under rocks and logs yielded *Steatoda nobilis*, *Cryptachaea blattea* and *Palliduphantes pallidus*. However, the most interesting find was a tiny pholcid spider living on Banana plant leaves above head height.

An adult male (Figs. 1–2) and two adult females (Figs. 3–4), one holding an egg-sac, were collected and identified as *Quamtana* sp. (ZFMK Ar 12707) aff. *kabale* (Huber, 2003; Huber *et al.*, 2015; Huber *et al.*, 2024). Huber *et al.* (2024) recommend using the provisional name *Quamtana* sp. ZFMK Ar 12707 aff. *kabale* for this introduced species. In Europe this species (as *Quamtana* sp. A) has previously been reported from hothouses in Germany, living in humid leaf litter and under stones (Huber *et al.*, 2015). Here we add it as new to Wales as a non-native hothouse species, thereby adding a second *Quamtana* species to the British list (see Huber *et al.*, 2015).

Acknowledgements

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References

- Huber, B. A. (2003) Southern African pholcid spiders: revision and cladistic analysis of *Quamtana* gen. nov. and *Spermophora* Hentz (Araneae: Pholcidae), with notes on male-female covariation. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* **139**: 477–527.
- Huber, B. A., Szymański, H. & Bennett-West, A. (2024) Progress or burden? Formal description of every apparently new species available in collections is neither necessary nor useful. *ZooKeys* **1214**: 77–90.
- Huber, B., Neumann, J., Rehfeldt, S., Grabolle, A. & Reiser, N. (2015) Back in Europe: *Quamtana* spiders (Araneae: Pholcidae) in Germany. *Arachnologische Mitteilungen* **50**: 51–56.



Fig. 2: *Quamtana* sp. ZFMK Ar 12707 aff. *kabale* male, dorsal view. National Botanic Gardens Wales. Scale 1 mm.



Fig. 3: *Quamtana* sp. ZFMK Ar 12707 aff. *kabale* female, dorsal view. National Botanic Gardens Wales. Scale 1 mm.



Fig. 1: *Quamtana* sp. ZFMK Ar 12707 aff. *kabale* male, lateral view. National Botanic Gardens Wales. Note the conical abdomen profile. Scale 1 mm.

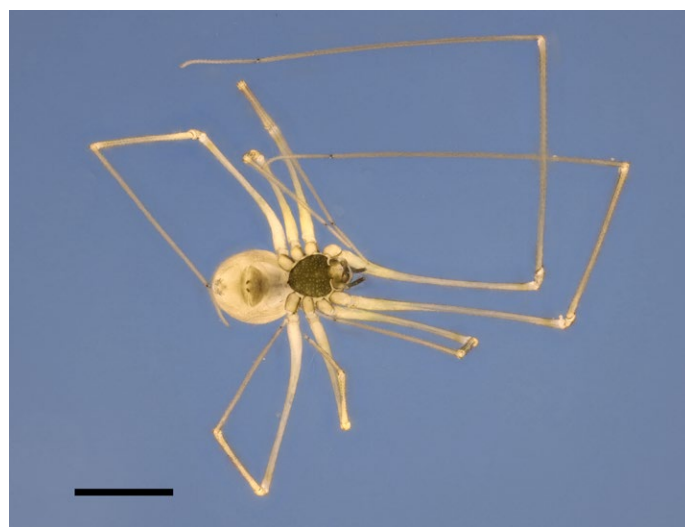


Fig. 4: *Quamtana* sp. ZFMK Ar 12707 aff. *kabale* female, ventral view. National Botanic Gardens Wales. Scale 1 mm.