Joel Hallan
Research on the order Palpigradi
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The order Palpigradi of the class Arachnida comprises 86 species world wide. The animals are small [one millimeter body length and a small tail about the same length]. They live entirely underground and never see the light of day. They are found by turning over small rocks that are entirely buried in the soil. They are seen as a little white dot moving in a circular pattern on the rock.

Very little is known of their habits. It is not known what they eat. They might eat fungi as do other creatures that live in the soil [ie. Collembola].

The species Eukoenia wheeleri has been found close to the banks of the Colorado River and some major creeks that are tributary to it. They are found in rich soil created by deposits of tree leaves.

By capturing live specimens, it is hoped to be able to find out more about their behavior. So far, none have been kept alive for more than two weeks.

I took two trips to Cypress Creek County Park over the summer [July and August]. I did find two of them, but was unable to actually capture them. They are very small and very hard to capture alive. I will try again this spring and summer [2010].