Hallen, Joel. 2010. Collection and Research of Arachnid, Palpigradi, Prokoenenia wheeleri.

The life history of all species of the Order Palpigradi [Class Arachnida] is almost completely unknown. None have been kept alive for more than 2 weeks. It is not know what they eat. Courtship and egglaying is completely unknown. These animals live completely underground and have no eyes. They need very high humidity or they will desiccate. They probably live close to the water table level. Most have been found very near rivers or tributaries of rivers or aquifers associated with rivers. They are rarely found in caves. It is possible that they fall through the roof or walls of a cave. There are some species that are common in caves. There are at least two cosmopolitan species that live in association with the roots are certain plants [ie. sugar cane]. These have been distributed around the world with their associated plants. There are two species [one is undescribed] that are associated with seaweed washed up on beaches. One is found by the Red Sea, the other off the west coast of Florida on an island.

They are normally collected with the use of a Berlese funnel. They can not be collected alive that way. If a site can be found where they can be found, then they can be collected by digging a few inches in the soil, finding small rocks and observing if any animals are crawling on the underside of them. Mature animals are 1 mm in length and are mostly translucent. If moving, they appear as small white dots. I have caught them with the use of an aspirator.

The collection site is in Cypress Creek Park on Lake Travis. It is fairly close to the lake and in an area with trees and bushes.

I have seen a few specimens here previous to the first time I caught one, but I was not able to catch them. Normally you can only find two within three hours of searching. They are normally not common. Just previous to September 11, 2010 when I did finally catch some, there was a large amount of rain. The soil was moist and in an hour's time, I had found over 10.

I took them home and put them into a couple of colonies of Collembola that I had been keeping [for over a year]. Without magnification, they do not look much different from the Collembola. I have not been able to find them in the Collembola colony, so far.