

*Extensor brevis digitorum*.—In the memoir by Ruge, to which reference has been made, the author traces with great ability the history of this muscle. It belongs originally to the peroneal group of muscles, and in the *Monotremata* it may be observed to arise entirely from the fibula. Its progress as it passes down to the dorsum of the foot can be traced step by step through the mammalian series. First one belly descends, then another, and so on until the entire muscle gains the dorsum of the foot, as in man.

In *Thylacinus* the entire muscle arises from the fibula; in the *Cuscus* the part belonging to the medius and index has reached the dorsum of the foot, whilst that belonging to the two outer digits still shows a fibular origin.

In the *Thylacine* the extensor brevis digitorum is represented by three separate fleshy bellies, all of which arise from the fibula under cover of the two peronei muscles. The largest of these fleshy bellies springs from the upper third of the fibular shaft, and its tendon joins the dorsal expansion of the extensor tendon of the little toe; the other two arise side by side from the middle third of the fibular shaft, and of these the posterior belly gives rise to a tendon which divides to reach the extensor expansions of the index and middle digits, whilst the anterior belly sends its tendon to the extensor expansion of the ring toe. All these tendons accompany the tendons of the peronei muscles behind the external maleolus.

In the *Cuscus* the fibular portions of the extensor brevis digitorum are two in number, viz., (1) a good sized muscle (Pl. V. fig. 3, c.) which arises from the outer aspect of the head of the fibula, under cover of the superficial head of the peroneus longus; the slender tendon of this fleshy slip passes behind the external maleolus, and is inserted into the dorsal expansion of the extensor tendon of the minimus (c'); (2) the second fleshy belly (Pl. V. fig. 3, d) is subjacent to the preceding, and springs from the middle third of the inner aspect of the shaft of the fibula; its tendon passes behind the external maleolus and gaining the dorsum of the foot is inserted into the extensor expansion of the ring digit (d').

The pedal portion of the extensor brevis digitorum in the *Cuscus* (Pl. V. fig. 3, h) arises by a narrow tendon from the outer aspect of the os calcis. It is a very minute fleshy band, which ends in two delicate tendons for the index and medius respectively.

In the Koala<sup>1</sup> the arrangement of the extensor brevis digitorum is similar to that of the same muscle in the *Cuscus*.

According to Ruge<sup>2</sup> the fibular portion of the muscle in *Didelphys* and *Dasyurus* consists of two fleshy bellies, of which one sends a tendon to the fifth toe, whilst the other supplies tendons to the second, third, and fourth toes; further, in *Didelphys* there is a pedal portion which is devoted solely to the hallux and index.

<sup>1</sup> Young, *loc. cit.*, p. 41.

<sup>2</sup> *Loc. cit.*, p. 46.