

it turns round a deep groove in the cuboid, and is directed inwards across the sole. It is inserted into the base of the first metatarsal bone. Two annular ligaments confine the tendon in its passage downwards, viz., behind the external maleolus and upon the outer aspect of the os calcis. In the sole of the foot it is not provided with a complete sheath.

In *Thylacinus* the peroneus longus presents an origin very similar to that in *Cuscus*. Its tendon, however, is inserted into the ento-cuneiform bone, and as it winds round the outer margin of the foot it is slightly attached by tendinous fibres to the base of the fifth metatarsal bone.

Dr. Georg Ruge,¹ in his elaborate memoir upon the extensor muscles of the leg and foot, expresses his belief that the insertion of the peroneus longus into the inner margin of the foot does not present the original condition of the muscle. To explain the course of the tendon across the sole of the foot he advances the hypothesis that the original insertion of the tendon was into the base of the fifth metatarsal, and that its progress inwards has been caused by the fibres of insertion coming more and more into relation with the plantar ligaments. In support of this theory he points to the *Monotremata*, in which the tendon does not lie free in a sheath during its passage through the sole, but is connected by thin membranous slips to the cuneiform bones, and in which also the tendon is attached by a process containing half its fibres to the base of the fifth metatarsal. In the *Didelphys virginiana*, *Didelphys cancrivora*, and the *Dasyurus hallucinatus* he likewise noticed an attachment of the tendon of the peroneus longus to the tuberosity on the base of the fifth metatarsal bone, whilst in the first of these animals it presented additional attachments to the bases of the third and fourth metatarsal bones.

In *Cuscus* the tendon (Pl. VI. fig. 6, *p.t.*) lies quite free in its sheath, and has no other attachment except to the base of the first metatarsal bone; in *Thylacinus*, as we have seen, it is slightly attached to the base of the fifth metatarsal bone.

Peroneus brevis.—In the *Cuscus* (Pl. V. fig. 3, *b*) this muscle arises by a narrow pointed tendon from the anterior prominence of the head of the fibula; it likewise derives fibres from the intermuscular septum between it and the extensor communis digitorum. In the *Thylacinus* it also takes origin from the shaft of the fibula in its upper half, and in both animals it is inserted into the base of the fifth metatarsal by a tendon which runs downwards behind the external maleolus and then along the outer margin of the foot.

It seems to be the rule for this muscle to take origin from the shaft of the fibula as in the *Thylacine*. Ruge¹ describes this in the *Didelphys virginiana*, *Didelphys cancrivora*, and in *Dasyurus hallucinatus*. Dr. Ruge believes that the peroneus brevis is originally derived from the outermost belly of the extensor brevis digitorum.

¹ A Research into the Group of Extensors of the Leg and Foot of Mammalia, Morph. Jahr., 1880.