

the palmar aspect of the muscles, two additional bellies are found occupying each of the respective interosseous spaces. These are more or less separable from the bellies seen dorsally, so that four muscular bundles—two dorsal and two palmar—are distinguishable as constituting the third and fourth (second?) dorsal interosseous muscles. All end inferiorly on a common arched tendon, which by its extremities is attached, as in the Opossum, but on a more anterior plane, reaching indeed as far as the sesamoids.”

It would appear, therefore, that in certain Marsupial animals, a dorsal interosseous muscle, in addition to the usual mode of insertion, may obtain insertion in three different ways all leading the one out of the other. In the manus of the *Cuscus*, the tendon of insertion of the three outer muscles is fixed by a small transverse band to the head of the metacarpal bone of the digit, which lies adjacent to that into which the muscle is inserted. This acts so as to increase the abducting power of these muscles. In the manus of the *Thylacine* and *Cuscus*, and in the pes of the *Cuscus*, the tendon of certain of the interossei bifurcates, and is inserted into the bases of the contiguous digits. An approximating action is thus gained. Lastly, in the foot of the Vulpine *Phalanger*, and in the manus of certain other Marsupials, a fibrous arch is thrown across between the adjacent bases of two digits, and the muscles are inserted into this.

In the Vulpine *Phalanger*, a very distinct opponens minimi digiti similar in all respects to the same muscle in *Cuscus* is present.

NERVE SUPPLY OF THE INTRINSIC MUSCLES IN THE PRECEDING ANIMALS.

In *Thylacinus*, which has no hallux, all the intrinsic muscles are supplied by the external plantar nerve. In the other animals, with the exception of *Cuscus*, the abductor hallucis and the flexor brevis hallucis are supplied by the internal plantar, whilst the remaining muscles draw their nerve supply from the external plantar nerve. In *Cuscus*, however, the abductor hallucis appears to be supplied by a special branch to the hallux (fig. 5).

It is to be noted that in all these specimens, with one exception, the deep division of the external plantar in passing from the outer to the inner margin of the foot lies under cover of the plantar layer of muscles, and superficial to the intermediate and dorsal muscles. The one exception to this arrangement is to be seen, as already pointed out in *Dasyurus*, in which the nerve in turning inwards runs also under cover of the minute abductor of the minimus, which is inserted into the sesamoid bone. Ruge noticed this also in *Dasyurus hallucatus*.¹

My friend, Dr. Young of Manchester, who has had an opportunity of examining the feet of the Koala and the Virginian Opossum, has very kindly furnished me with the notes

¹ *Loc. cit.*, p. 54.