

of the metacarpal bone of the finger, which lies adjacent to that into which the muscle is inserted. By this the muscle is enabled to act at a greater advantage, because its tendon is prevented from clinging too closely to the base of the phalanx upon which it is acting. A similar arrangement can be made out in the *Thylacine*, but here the bands are weak in comparison with those found in the *Cuscus*.

The dorsal interossei muscles of the *Cuscus* are provided with the same accessory slips in connection with their palmar surfaces as those we have already seen in the *Thylacine*. They are not nearly so well developed, however, and they are differently placed. The first is an adductor of the index; the second abducts the middle finger to the ulnar side of the hand; and the third abducts the ring finger. They are attached to the fingers with which they are associated in the same manner as in the *Thylacine*.

*Palmar group* (fig. 3).—The muscles which compose this group are the same as those in the two preceding animals, viz., (1) an adductor pollicis (*h*); (2) an adductor minimi digiti (*c*); (3) an adductor indicis (*a*); (4) and an adductor of the ring finger (*b*).

In man we see the adductor pollicis arising along the middle line of the hand from the middle metacarpal bone. It adopts this origin in order that it may obtain a more powerful action upon the thumb, and have a standpoint by means of which it may draw the thumb more completely across the palm of the hand. In the *Thylacine* and *Phascogale* there is also a tendency for the adductor muscles to seek the middle line of the hand for their origins. They arise close to each other, and then radiate towards their insertions. In the *Cuscus* all the adductors arise from the middle line, but in a different manner from the adductor pollicis in man. A median fibrous raphe extends downwards from the base of the metacarpal bone of the middle finger, and the adductors arise from each side of this. Thus the adductor pollicis and adductor minimi digiti spring from the upper two-thirds of the raphe, the one opposite the other. They also arise, however, by a few fibres from the front of the carpus. The adductors of the index and ring fingers are very small, and take origin from the raphe below the preceding and also opposite each other. A few fibres forming a fleshy fasciculus (*a.b*), in front of the raphe, and in no way connected with it, pass round the base of the middle finger, and are attached, on the one hand, to the adductor tendon of the ring finger, and, on the other, to the adductor tendon of the index finger. It is an adductor of these fingers, but having no intermediate attachment, it must act upon both fingers simultaneously.

These muscles constitute with the raphe a thin stratum which hides from view the greater number of the intermediate muscles.

The *intermediate group* of muscles requires no special description. They agree in all essential points with the same muscles in the *Thylacine* and *Phascogale*. Of the two slips which compose the individual muscles it is somewhat curious to observe that whereas one is always inserted directly into the phalanx, the other has both an attachment to the phalanx and to the dorsal expansion of the extensor tendon. The flexor