

We will first speak of its *composition*. Notwithstanding that it is spoken of by many persons and writers as simply a prolongation of the mucous membrane, it is a true muscular body, covered with the former, but having the remarkable peculiarity, in a considerable number of individuals, of possessing this membrane elongated at its terminal end, resembling somewhat the finger of a glove, partly off and partly on the finger of the hand to which it belongs. This becomes an abnormal condition which influences the voice, especially in singing, as much so as if it were a disease; yet it cannot be denied that sometimes, though very rarely, the true muscular end becomes elongated. The muscle which forms the substance of the uvula is known to anatomists as the levator or azygos uvulae, and consists most generally of two distinct muscles (notwithstanding its name) placed side by side in the middle line of the soft palate, although sometimes it is single. The latter is exceptional, for a distinct muscle of a fusiform fleshy character in some persons, in others a narrow slip of muscular fibres, is found to exist very distinctly on both sides, and to become blended at the terminal point of union at the tip of the uvula. Whether single or double, the origin is invariably from the spine in the centre of the posterior border of the hard palate and aponeurosis of the tensor palati; the fibres descend vertically close to its fellow in the median line, upon the nasal surface of the velum, and are inserted into the cellular tissue at the terminal end of the uvula. Its origin from the spine of the palate bones, or rather, as it is described by some anatomists, from the palatine aponeurosis, or *fibrous continuation of the septum narium*, necessarily invests it with considerable strength and powers of resistance, as shall presently be shown. It is, however, the most superficial of the palate muscles, situated on the posterior or nasal surface of the soft palate, and, with some mucous glands and cellular tissue, forms the uvula.

Such is a description of the uvula, which in structure is clearly muscular, separated in the origin of its two muscles above by a slight interval which would give them together the shape of a long spear. In stout fleshy persons I have frequently found distinct adipose tissue, in more or less abundance, situated at the tip or terminal end. When the uvula is bifid, the insertion of the muscle is separate and distinct in each terminal point.

The *situation* of the uvula perpendicularly in the centre of the soft palate corresponds with the depression at the root of the tongue known as the foramen cecum or frenum, between the valliculae, its point being in front of the epiglottis. It is not in contact, but still exceedingly close to the tongue. Yet in many