

BRACHIAL MUSCLES

Coracobrachialis (fig. 8, C)

Origin. From the coracoid process, and capsule of the shoulder joint, by a common tendon with the short head of the biceps. The capsular origin is uncommon. The muscle in its upper part receives fibers from the pectoralis minor as mentioned above.

Insertion. Into the medial side of the humerus from the level of the lesser tuberosity almost down to the medial epicondyle. What are here present are thus all three divisions of the muscle, namely, superior, middle and inferior portions.

The superior portion here exhibited is rarely found in man though normal to some of the lower animals. The coracobrachialis superior, when present, inserts into the lesser tuberosity, surgical neck, and medial bicipital ridge of the humerus, also frequently into the capsule of the shoulder joint. It occurs only very rarely in the Anthroidea but as a normal structure in the Quadrumana. It is also present in the elephant, giraffe, bear, cat, hyena, opossum, Echidna and several other animals.

The coracobrachialis medius is inserted into the middle portion of the humerus and forms the main mass of the normal human muscle, the remainder being constituted of the upper part of the coracobrachialis inferior. The medius is the only portion of the coracobrachialis present in the aye-aye, the bat, and the sloth, while it is absent in the kangaroo, otter, and seal.

The coracobrachialis inferior has an extremely variable insertion, extending in different cases from an attachment a couple of centimeters long on the shaft of the humerus below the medius, to an insertion on the inner edge of the whole lower half of the shaft of the bone and the inner epicondyle. In the latter case it bridges the supracondylar foramen in animals where this is present and so is perforated by the median nerve and brachial artery. This muscle is found in the cetacea, the hedgehog, the bear, great anteater and others. The inferior portion is much more developed here than is normal in man, but similar development has been frequently found before.