

COMMON SPIDERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Africa has well over 2,200 known species of spiders with very few that are of medical importance. Most 'spider bites' are not spider bites but wounds caused by infections and other invertebrates. There has never been a fatal spider bite in Southern Africa.



Neurotoxic venom

**MEDICALLY
SIGNIFICANT**

Black Button Spider
(*Latrodectus indistinctus*)



Neurotoxic venom

**MEDICALLY
SIGNIFICANT**

Brown Button Spider
(*Latrodectus geometricus*) Photo Niela du Preez



Cytotoxic venom

**MEDICALLY
SIGNIFICANT**

Violin Spider
(*Loxosceles similima*)



Cytotoxic venom

**MEDICALLY
SIGNIFICANT**

Long-legged Sac Spider
(*Cheiracanthium furculatum*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Tropical Tent Web Spider
(*Cyrtophora citricola*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Baboon Spider
(*Harpactira hamiltoni*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Wolf Spider
(*Hogna sp.*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Hairy Field Spider
(*Neoscona rapta*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Banded-legged Golden Orb Spider
(*Nephila senegalensis*)



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Fishing Spider
(*Nilus radiatolineatus*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Lynx Spider
(*Oxyopes sp.*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Rain Spider
(*Palystes sp.*)



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Scorpion Spider
(*Platyoides walteri*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Nursery Web Spider
(*Rothus sp.*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Spitting Spider
(*Scytodes sp.*)



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Jumping Spider
(*Thyene ogdeni*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Daddy Long Legs
(*Smeringopus natalensis*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

False Button Spider
(*Steatoda capensis*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

False House Button Spider
(*Theridion sp.*) Photo Niela du Preez



**NOT
DANGEROUS**

Flower Crab Spider
(*Thomisus kalaharinus*) Photo Niela du Preez

NOTE

For suspected spider bites, keep the wound clean and consult a medical doctor.



JOHAN MARAIS is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and offers a variety of courses including **Snake Awareness**, **Spider Awareness** and **Venomous Snake Handling**. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) and Travel Doctor-approved service provider.

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EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

**BITES FROM MEDICALLY SIGNIFICANT
SPIDERS MUST BE TREATED AS
A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.**

- 1 Transport the victim to hospital **without delay**.
- 2 Immobilize the affected limb to slow the spread of venom.
- 3 If the victim stops breathing, apply artificial respiration or use a Bag Valve Mask.
- 4 Call the Poison Information Centre helpline for further advice: 0861 555 777.

DO NOT

- ... apply a tourniquet.
- ... cut and suck the wound.
- ... use ice or very hot water.
- ... give the victim alcohol.
- ... apply electric shock.
- ... inject antivenom randomly.

Antivenom (if required) must be administered by a doctor in a hospital environment.