

Copyright: Johan Marais - African Snakebite Institute First Edition published 2025

814 Wapadrand Rd, Wapadrand Security Village, Pretoria, 0081

Cell: +27 (0)82 494 2039 E-mail johan@asiorg.co.za www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or used commercially without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

SNAKE COURSES

The ASI offers both public and corporate snake courses.

Public courses take place at various venues throughout South Africa.

The corporate training is done on-site, both in South Africa, as well as in 19 African countries.

We pride ourselves on teaching only the safest snake handling methods, to ensure the safety of both the handler and the snake.

We offer a range of different course options, including snake awareness, first aid for snakebite, venomous snake handling, venomous snake handling bootcamps, as well as advanced first aid for snakebite, advanced venomous snake handling and a reptile photography course.

For course info, click here or email us on courses@asiorg.co.za for details.





INTRODUCTION

he African Snakebite Institute is the leading training provider of Snake Awareness, First Aid for Snakebite and Venomous Snake Handling courses in Africa as well as the largest distributer of quality snake handling equipment, snake PPE and snakebite first aid kits. Our aim is to spread snake awareness as far and wide as possible, which is why we've launched our new free E-Book series.

ur CEO, Johan Marais is a well-known herpetologist with over 40 years of experience with snakes. He has worked at various reptile facilities and has collaborated on a variety of scientific studies with some of the world's leading herpetologists. He is also one of Africa's most prominent authors of snake books and has written the best-sellers A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa, Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa and First Aid for Snakebite, to mention just a few.



COMMON SNAKES OF NOUPOORT

The Eastern Cape has 49 different types of snakes. Of the 21 snake species found in Noupoort there are two species which are considered potentially deadly, three species are considered dangerous and one species can inflict a painful bite. We've listed the common species in this booklet, showing venomosity, key ID features, full distribution, and snakebite info for venomous species.

Snakebite is problematic with most bites reported from the hot, wet regions in the eastern part of the country. More than 4,000 snakebites are reported annually with over 1,000 victims being hospitalised. Of those around 60% show signs of envenomation and the remaining 40% show no symptoms – these are referred to as dry bites or may be bites from mildly venomous or harmless snakes. In a recent 5 year survey of 879 snakebite cases in Zululand, nearly 98% of victims showed typical signs of cytotoxic envenomation – largely Mozambique Spitting Cobra, Puff Adder, Common Night Adder and Stiletto Snake bites. Despite their relative frequency, if treated correctly in hospital, these bites are rarely fatal. Most bites occured in the early evening in the warm wet summer months from November to April/May. Around 84% of the bites were inflicted well below the knee. Less than 11% of these victims received antivenom and none of the bites in this survey were fatal.

Generally speaking we have 10 - 12 fatal snakebites a year in South Africa and these are invariably caused by the Black Mamba and Cape Cobra. Both of these snakes have a potent neurotoxic venom that may quickly affect breathing.

SNAKE HANDLING EQUIPMENT

The African Snakebite Institute is the leading provider of quality snake handling equipment in Africa. View our range online here.



COMMON SNAKES OF **NOUPOORT**



Noupoort has around twenty one different types of snakes. Two species are considered highly venomous while another three are venomous and one can give a bad bite. Most snakes encountered are mildly venomous or harmless.

Has caused

human fatalities

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

Not thought to be harmful to humans HARMLESS

Not dangerous to































Common Egg-eater (Dasyneltis scabra)

0



Sundevall's Shovel-snou



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 CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The African Snakebite Institute (ASI) offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling. ASI is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. The courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). ASI is the largest provider of quality snake handling and safety equipment in Africa.

FREE ASI SNAKES APP

Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute

+27 82 494 2039 | johan@asiorg.co.za

www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com

& Snakebite



EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKE BITE

1 Keep the victim calm, immobilized and transport the victim to the closest hospital without delay.

2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or make use of a Bag Valve Mask

3 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.

Download the high resolution poster here.



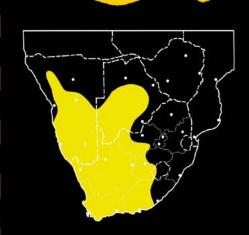
HIGHLY VENOMOUS



Cape Cobra

(Naja nivea)

Maximum Length: 2.3 m



Other names:

Geelslang, Kaapse Kobra, Koper kapel

This snake varies in colour from near black to dark or light brown, beige, yellow or speckled while juveniles have a dark band on the throat. The Cape Cobra is easily confused with the Mole Snake and the Black Spitting Cobra. It is by far our most dangerous cobra and with the Black Mamba it accounts for the majority of fatal snake bites in South Africa. The Cape Cobra may stand its ground if threatened and is quick to form a hood and bite. It occurs largely in the Cape provinces but extends into the Free State, Northwest, southern Botswana and Namibia. The venom is potently neurotoxic causing progressive weakness and may affect breathing rapidly. Victims need urgent hospitalisation and in a severe bite antivenom is essential







Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



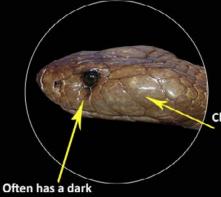
Cape Cobra (Naja nivea)

HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Average length: 1.2 - 1.6 m. Maximum length: 2.3 m

Can be confused with: Mole Snakes, Black Spitting Cobras, Snouted Cobras





Chunky cheeks for venom storage Spreads an impressive hood

Juveniles have a dark band on throat

mark under the eye

Varies in colour from light yellow to brown, gold and black.
Often a speckled mix of colours



Ventral scales often visable on sides

Belly usually same colour as the rest of snake

Usually have dark tipped tails

SNAKEBITE PROFILE **CAPE COBRA**

Naja nivea



Risk of Bites

The Cape Cobra is commonly encountered in suburbia, especially in areas where rodents are abundant. If cornered, it is quick to rear up and form a hood and if approached closely will bite readily.



Most Bites

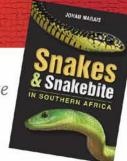
Most victims are bitten on the lower leg or on a hand, often when attempting to capture or kill the snake.



Symptoms & Venom

A potent and fast-acting neurotoxic venom that is quite similar to Black Mamba venom in its effects. It results in pins and needles in the lips, nausea, excessive sweating, drooping eyelids, difficulty in swallowing and eventually drowsiness and muscle pain followed by paralysis and respiratory failure. Some victims also experience some swelling. In severe cases victims become unresponsive within less than one hour.

See pages 49-51 - Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa (2024).



First Aid

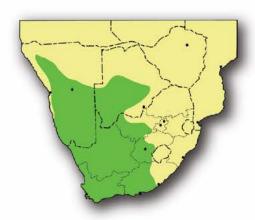
Immobilise and reassure the patient, who must lie down in a rescue position. Immediately arrange transport to a hospital with emergency facilities. If far from a hospital, apply a pressure bandage (Page 19 of Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa). Resort to artificial respiration if the victim stops breathing.



Medical Treatment

severe envenomation cases patients are intubated and ventilated if they are not breathing. They are treated with 12-15 vials of SAVP Polyvalent antivenom. Additional vials of antivenom may be required at a later stage. Even after receiving antivenom, patients may remain unresponsive for a day or two.







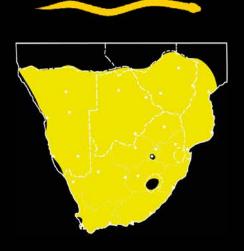
HIGHLY VENOMOUS



Puff Adder

(Bitis arietans)

Maximum Length: 1.4 m



Other names:

Pofadder, Imbululu

The Puff Adder is widespread over much of southern Africa and further north into Africa. It is a heavy-bodied snake that relies on its excellent camouflage and is reluctant to move. Much of its life is spent in camouflage mode and recent research has shown that when hiding, the Puff Adder will not hiss or strike when approached, as this would give away its presence. It is an ambush hunter that will coil up into a striking position and await its prey. This can last several days or even weeks. Toads are lured closer with flicking of the tongue. Puff Adder venom is potently cytotoxic, causing severe pain, swelling, blistering and in many cases severe tissue damage. Polyvalent antivenom is effective.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



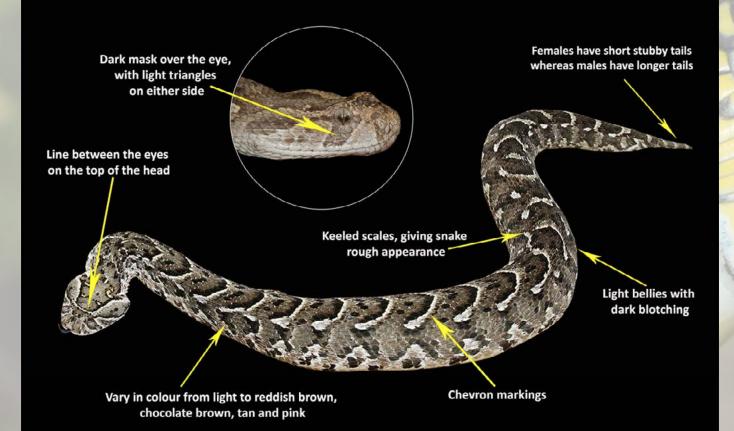
Puff Adder (Bitis arietans)

HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Average length: 90 cm. Maximum length: 1.4 m

Often confused with: night adders and Berg Adders







SNAKEBITE PROFILE PUFF ADDER

Bitis arietans



Risk Of Bites

Bites are common as this snake is widespread throughout most of southern Africa. Along with the Mozambique Spitting Cobra, these two snakes account for the majority of serious snakebites in southern Africa. Dogs are at risk and often get bitten when attempting to kill the snake.



(A) Most Bites

Most victims are bitten at night when accidentally stepping on the snake, but bites are also inflicted during the day when the snake is basking. Most bites are on the feet or lower legs.



🔍 Symptoms & Venom

The venom is potently cytotoxic as well as haemotoxic. Symptoms include severe pain, progressive swelling, bleeding from the fang punctures, blistering and tissue damage. The lymph nodes may also be affected. Dogs may perish after a bite from this snake, unless treated with polyvalent antivenom, if required.

See pages 26-28 Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa (2024).



First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient. Elevate the affected limb and remove tight clothing and jewelry. Promptly transport the victim to the nearest hospital that has emergency facilities. Avoid all other first aid remedies including bandages.



Medical Treatment

In cases of severe envenomation where there are clear signs of progressive swelling, which extends more than 10-15cm per hour above the bite site, doctors will treat such bites with 6 ampoules (or more) of polyvalent antivenom. Anti-inflammatories (NSAID's) and antibiotics are not indicated in the short term. Fasciotomies are rarely justified and should generally be avoided. In cases where patients suffer tissue damage, surgery may be required but rarely in the first few days.









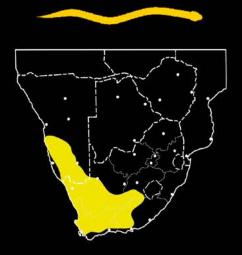


VENOMOUS

Cape Coral Snake

(Aspidelaps I. lubricus)

Maximum Length: 60 cm



Other names:

Koraalslang, Koraalkobra

A colourful nocturnal snake that is widespread in the drier western part of southern Africa. It shelters under rocks during the day and moves around at night, often seen crossing roads. The Cape Coral Snake inhabits outcrops and stony, dry, sandy regions in arid savanna, Karoo scrub, Fynbos and desert. If confronted it will lift its head off the ground, flatten the neck region and hiss while striking out repeatedly. This snake may be confused with the harmless Tiger snakes of the genus *Telescopus*. A popular snake in the illegal pet trade. Its venom is predominantly neurotoxic and may affect breathing. There is no antivenom for the bite of this snake and bites must be treated symptomatically.







Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



Cape Coral Snake
(Aspidelaps lubricus lubricus)

VENOMOUS

Average length: 35 cm. Maximum length: 60 cm

Often confused with: Spotted Harlequin Snakes and tiger snakes





www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com



SNAKEBITE PROFILE CAPE CORAL SNAKE

Aspidelaps lubricus lubricus



Risk of Bites

Bites to humans are not common. This snake inhabits rocky outcrops and dry sandy areas. It is quick to form a hood, hiss and strike repeatedly when startled or cornered.



Most Bites

Bites are not common, except for incidents where snake keepers are bitten by captive snakes.



Symptoms & Venom

predominantly is venom neurotoxic. Symptoms may include pain and swelling. There is no antivenom for the bite of this snake. No human fatalities have been

See pages 70-71 Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa (2024).



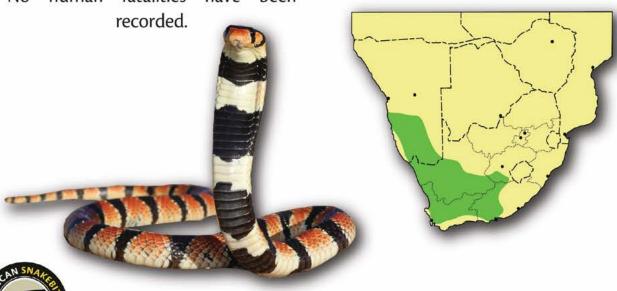
First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient and elevate the affected limb. Promptly transport the victim to the nearest hospital that has emergency facilities. Avoid all other first aid remedies including bandages.



Medical Treatment

There is no antivenom for bites from this snake, and doctors will treat symptomatically.





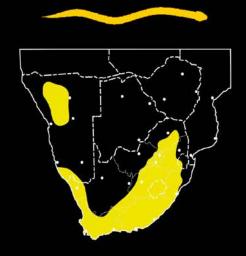


MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker

(Psammophylax rhombeatus)

Maximum Length: 1.4 m



Other names:

Rhombic Skaapsteker; Gespikkelde Skaapsteker

A fast-moving diurnal snake that inhabits grasslands, fynbos, moist savanna and semi-desert areas. It is a nervous snake and is quick to escape, either into a bush or grass tuft or under a rock. The name 'Skaapsteker' came from the mistaken belief that these abundant snakes accounted for sheep deaths, when the actual culprit was probably the Cape Cobra. This is also one of few African snakes that coil around and protect their eggs – the Southern African Python being the other. The Spotted Skaapsteker feeds on rodents, lizards, birds, frogs and other snakes. The venom of this snake is mild and poses no threat to humans.







Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



Cape form has

red and blue flecks

ASI EASY ID

Spotted Skaapsteker (Psammophylax rhombeatus)

MILDLY VENOMOUS

Average length: 40 - 60 cm. Maximum length: 1.4 m

Often confused with: other sand and grass snakes and Striped Skaapsteker



www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com

Striped form

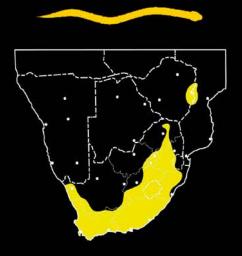




MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Grass Snake (*Psammophis crucifer*)

Maximum Length: 82 cm



Other names: Kruismerk Grasslang

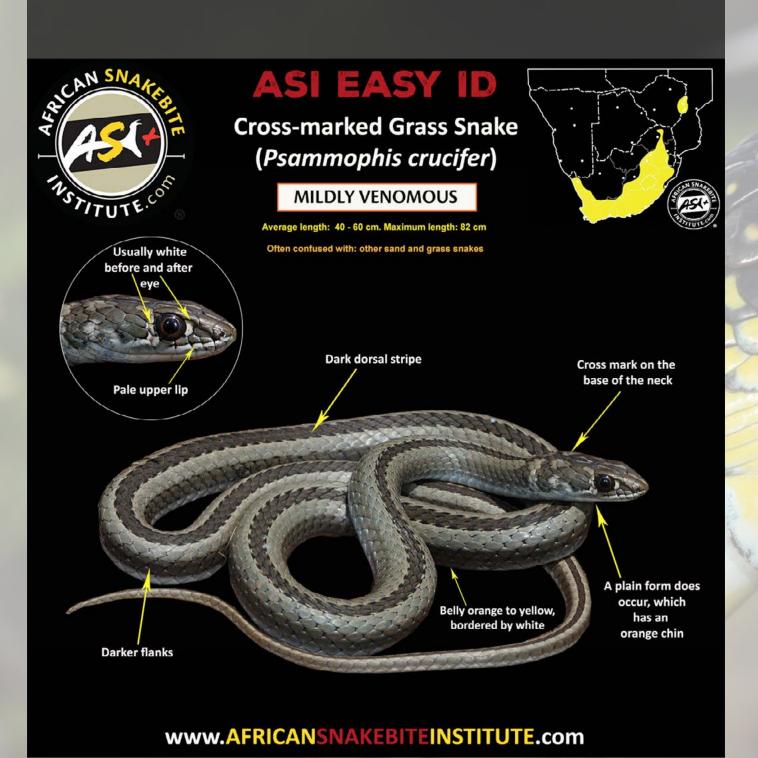
One of the smaller grass snakes averaging 30-50 cm but exceeding 82 cm in length. It is active in the day and feeds on small lizards, especially skinks, as well as frogs. It inhabits lowland forest, moist savanna, montane forest, grassland and fynbos. It is common in the sandy scrub-covered areas of the Cape coast and mountain plateau of Mpumalanga. When disturbed it may roll into a tight coil with the head inside, like the Slugeater. Most individuals are striped with distinct patterns on the side of the head, but some are plain brown to reddish brown with virtually no markings. A mildly venomous snake that poses no threat to humans.



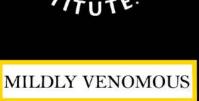




© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022









Karoo Sand Snake (*Psammophis notostictus*)

Maximum Length: 1 m



Other names: Karoo Sandslang

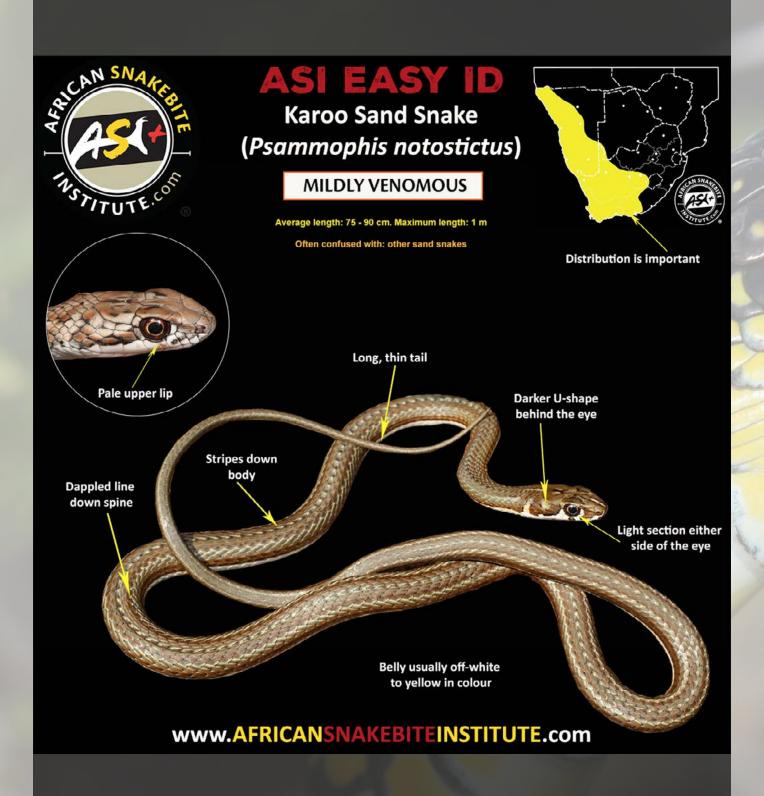
A slender snake that averages 40-60 cm with a maximum length of just over 1 m. It is very fast moving and active in the day when it hunts for lizards, including lacertids, skinks and agamas, but will also take small rodents. In some areas it is by far the most common snake and prefers hard, stony ground. Many individuals are killed by vehicles while crossing roads. It is widespread, occurring in the western Free State, western half of the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and much of the Northern Cape and Namibia, extending into Angola. The Karoo Sand Snake is easily confused with some of the other Sand and Grass snakes. It is mildly venomous and poses no threat to humans.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022





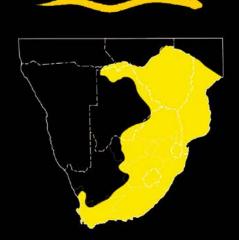
MILDLY VENOMOUS



Herald Snake

(Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia)

Maximum Length: 1 m



Other names:

Rooilipslang, Red-lipped Snake

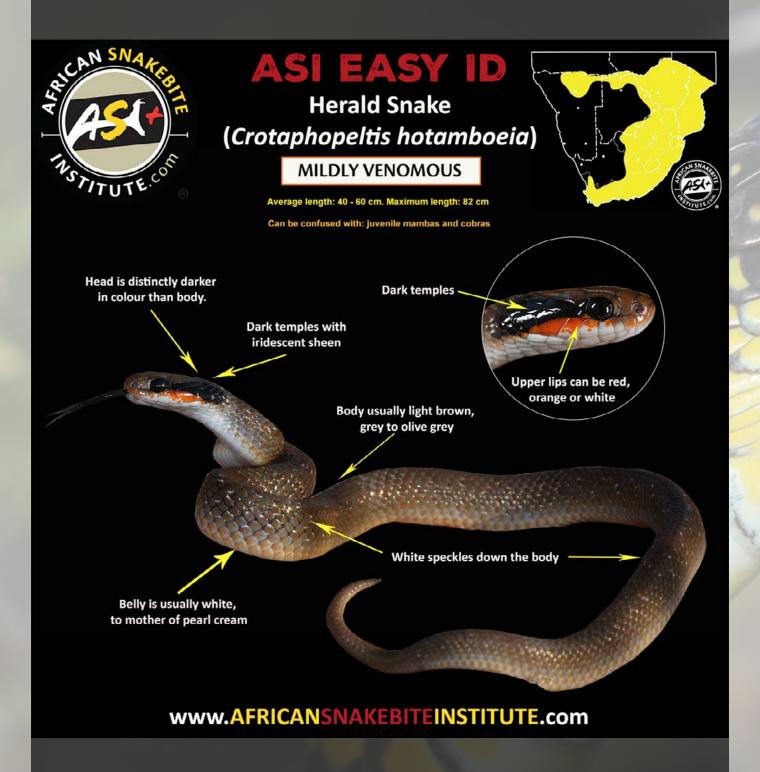
A nocturnal snake that frequents suburban gardens, especially those with water features. It is a toad specialist and often eats toads that look far too large to swallow. The Herald Snake is usually greyish to olive-grey in colour, but some individuals are quite dark. The head is always darker than the body and there may be white speckles on the body. In parts of the range the upper lip is bright red, orange or yellowish to white. When threatened, this snake puts up quite a show, drawing the head back into a striking position with the mouth agape and the head flattened. It is mildly venomous and poses no threat to humans or domestic animals.



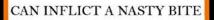




© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



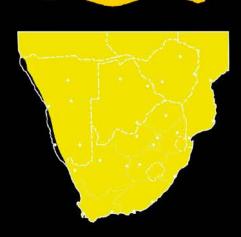






Mole Snake (*Pseudaspis cana*)

Maximum Length: 2.1 m



Other names: Molslang

The Mole snake is a muscular day-active snake that spends much of its time down rodent burrows in search of food. It is widespread and occurs throughout most of Southern Africa. It is often encountered in the Cape, but not seen commonly elsewhere in the country. Individuals vary from black to dark brown, medium brown, light brown or even brick red, while the juveniles have bright markings. This snake is not venomous but does have pin-sharp teeth and is capable of quite serious bites that may even require stitches. Mole Snakes are often confused with the Cape Cobra and the venomous stiletto snake even though it does not resemble them.







C Johan Marais African Smakebite Institute 2022



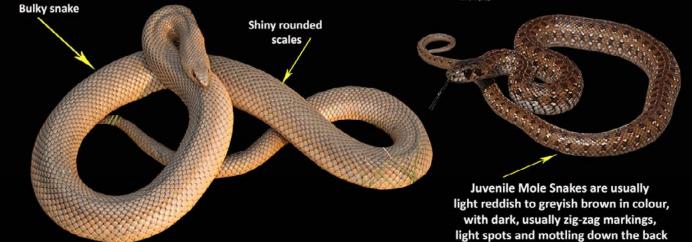
Mole Snake (Pseudaspis cana)

NON-VENOMOUS, BUT CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE

Average length: 1.2 m. Maximum length: 2.1 m

Often confused with: Cape Cobras, and Snouted Cobras. Juveniles are often confused with egg-eaters, night adders and skaapstekers









HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake

(Lamprophis aurora)

Maximum Length: 90 cm



Other names:

Auroraslang

A beautifully-marked, slow-moving snake that favours damp localities in grasslands, lowland forest and fynbos where it hunts for nestling rodents, lizards and frogs at night. Adults average 60 cm but may exceed 90 cm. It varies in colour from shiny olive green to dull dark green above with a bright yellow to orange vertebral stripe from the top of the head to the tip of the tail. It is a harmless constrictor that seldom attempts to bite. This snake is endemic to South Africa and Lesotho and occurs from the Cape Peninsula through the Western and Eastern Cape into parts of the Northern Cape, the Free State, much of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Gauteng and eastern North West province.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



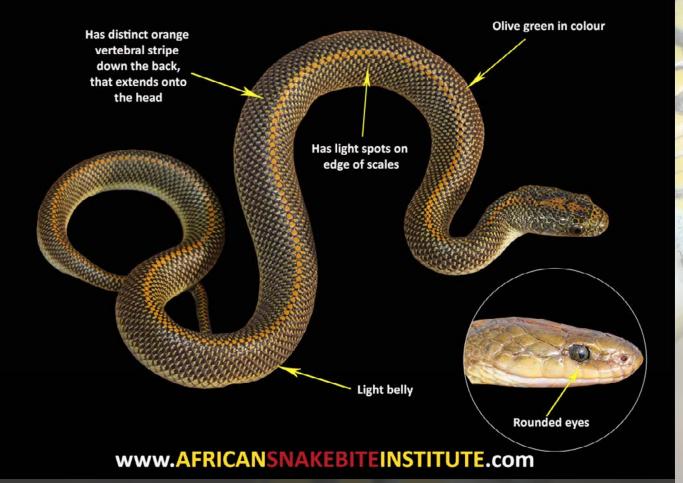
Aurora House Snake (Lamprophis aurora)

HARMLESS

Average length: 30-50 cm. Maximum length: 90 cm

Often confused with: Spotted Harlequin Snakes (Grassland form)







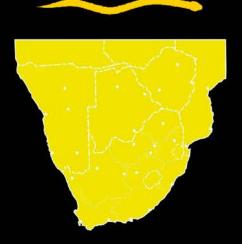


HARMLESS

Brown House Snake

(Boaedon capensis)

Maximum Length: 1.5 m



Other names: Bruin Huisslang

The Brown House Snake, true to its name, frequents human dwellings where it feeds largely on rodents and lizards. It is completely harmless and relies on muscle power to constrict its prey. It is widespread in South Africa and very common in suburban gardens.

This snake is active at night and is relatively slow-moving. Most individuals are medium to dark brown with a mother-of-pearl belly and two light lines on either side of the head – one from the nose through the top of the eye to the back of the head and the other from the back of the head and the other from the back of the eye to the angle of the jaw. The Brown House Snake comes in a variety of shades of brown, often with mottling of white along the neck.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2023



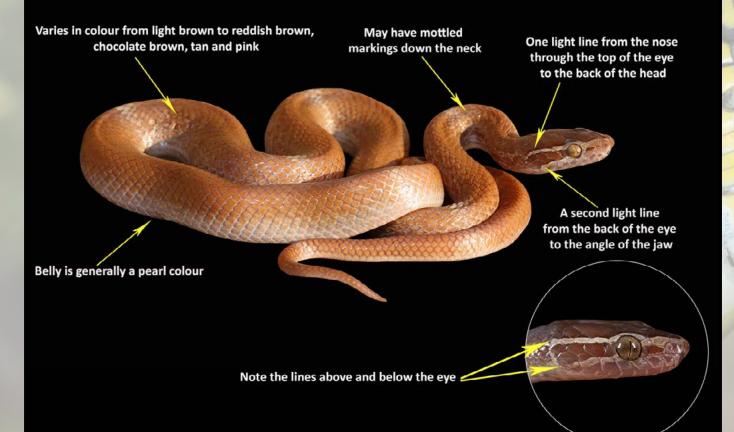
Brown House Snake (Boaedon capensis)

HARMLESS

Average length: 55 cm. Maximum length: 1.5 m

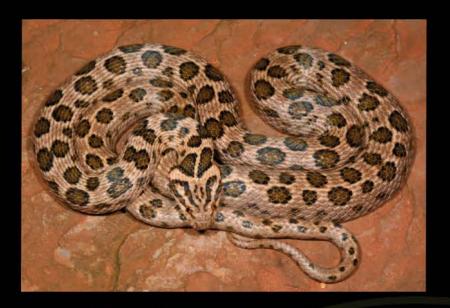
Can be confused with: Slug-eaters







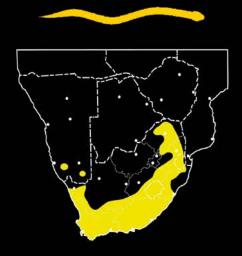




Spotted Rock Snake

(Lamprophis guttatus)

Maximum Length: 72 cm



Other names:

Gevlekte Rotsslang

A smallish snake that averages under 50 cm in length but may reach 72 cm. The Spotted Rock Snake is a secretive snake that inhabits narrow rock crevices where it feeds on lizards, mainly geckos but may also take rodents and nestling birds. It hunts at night and may be found crossing roads. Over much of its range it is quite rare, but in some areas it is abundant. There is a great deal of colour variation throughout the range of this snake, with most individuals being a yellowish-brown to pinkish-grey above, with reddish-brown to dark brown blotches or spots arranged in adjacent alternate pairs, that may form a zig-zag pattern down the back. This snake is harmless.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022





HARMLESS

Common Wolf Snake (Lycophidion capense)

Maximum Length: 65 cm



Other names:

Cape Wolf Snake, Gewone Wolfslang

This common little snake averages 25-40 cm in length and is frequently found in suburban gardens. It is active at night when it hunts for lizards, especially skinks and geckos. The Common Wolf Snake is fond of damp localities where it seeks refuge under rocks, logs and in rubbish heaps. Though harmless it has long, recurved teeth in both the upper and lower jaw, hence the common name. Females produce 3–9 eggs in early summer. The Common Wolf Snake is difficult to distinguish from the venomous stiletto snake. It differs by having a long thin tail, the head is distinct from the body, and it usually has light spots on the back of each body scale.







O Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2023



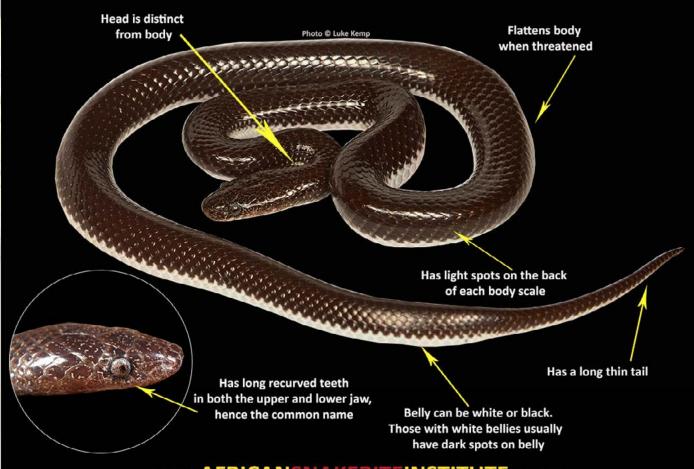
Common Wolf Snake (Lycophidion capense)

HARMLESS

Average length: 40 cm. Maximum length: 64 cm

Often confused with: stiletto snakes





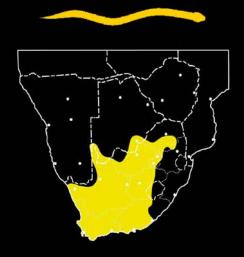




HARMLESS

Sundevall's Shovel-snout (*Prosymna sundevallii*)

Maximum Length: 36 cm



Other names: Sundevall se Graafneusslang

This is a small snake that averages 18-25 cm but reaches 36 cm in length. The snout is characteristically pointed. It is found in a variety of habitats from fynbos to moist savanna, Karoo and grasslands extending into dry savanna where it can be found under rocks and logs as well as in deserted termite mounds. When threatened it coils and uncoils like the old clock springs.

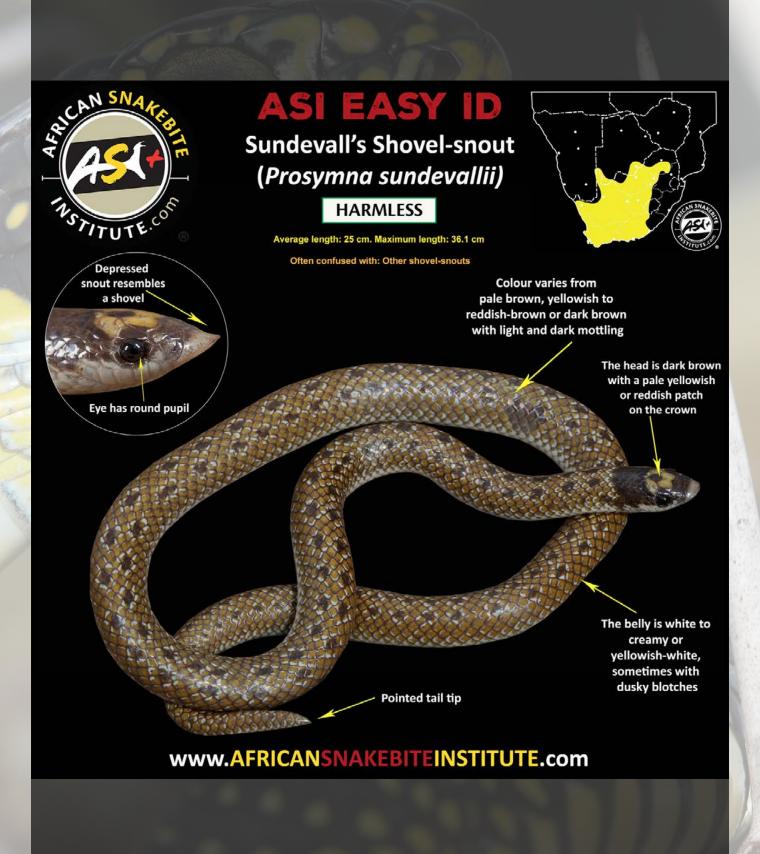
Sundevall's Shovel-snout feeds largely on reptile eggs but will also take small lizards and invertebrates. It is harmless and poses no threat to humans. If handled, it may press the sharp spike on the tail tip into the hand.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2023



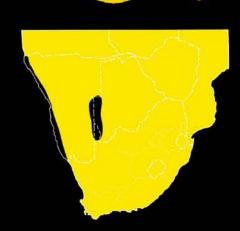




HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater (*Dasypeltis scabra*)

Maximum Length: 1.16 m



Other names:

Rhombic Egg-eater, Gewone Eiervreter

A common snake throughout most of southern Africa except for true desert and closed canopy forests. It averages around 50 cm and is well adapted at climbing trees. It is most abundant in thornveld and grasslands where it can be found in any situation. It is nocturnal, spending most of the day hiding beneath rocks or under loose bark. When agitated, it will coil and uncoil while striking out viciously. The rubbing scales create a rasping sound similar to a hiss. It is completely harmless, and the teeth are reduced. It feeds exclusively on birds' eggs. It may be confused with the venomous Common Night Adder.







© Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2022



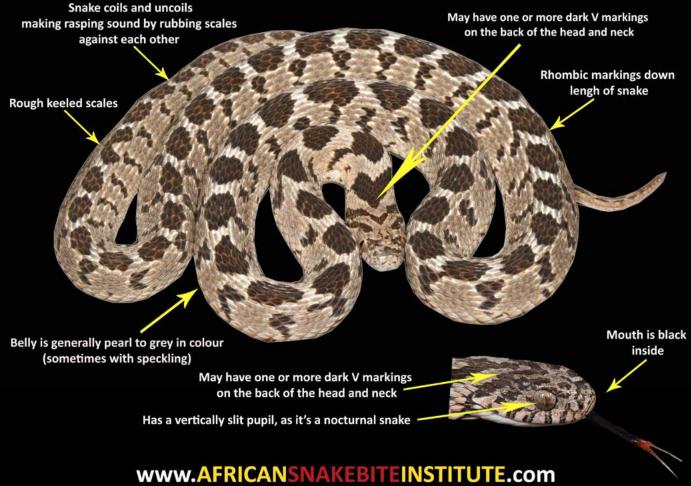
Common Egg-eater (Dasypeltis scabra)

HARMLESS

Average length: 55 cm. Maximum length: 1.16 m

Often confused with: Common Night Adders





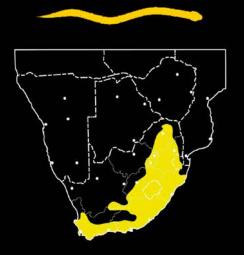




HARMLESS

Common Slug-eater (*Duberria lutrix*)

Maximum Length: 43 cm



Other names:

Gewone Slakvreter, Tabakrolletjie

A small snake that averages 30 – 35 cm. It feeds exclusively on snails and slugs and locates them by following the slime trail. The Common Slug-eater favours damp localities in the southeastern half of southern Africa.

During the day it seeks shelter under rocks, logs and grass tufts and emerges in the evening to hunt. It is reluctant to bite and if threatened will defecate and secrete a foul-smelling substance simultaneously. It also has the peculiar habit of rolling up into a tight spiral with the head concealed, like a roll of tobacco, hence the Afrikaans name. This small slow-moving snake is not venomous and poses no threat to humans.







O Johan Marais African Snakebite Institute 2023



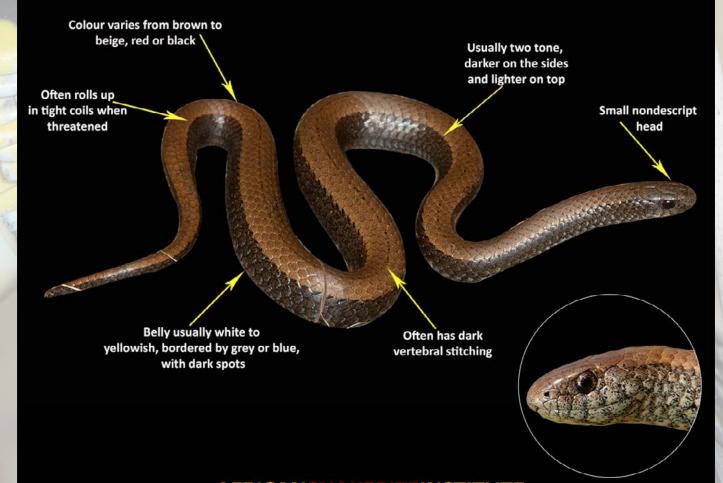
Common Slug-eater (Duberria lutrix)

HARMLESS

Average length: 35 cm. Maximum length: 45 cm

Often confused with: Juvenile Cape Cobras





FIRST AID FOR SNAKEBITE



IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKEBITE, DO NOT ...

- Do not try to cut or suck out the venom. Never cut the bite site as cutting may do far more harm than good. Sucking does not remove significant amounts of venom.
- Do not apply any electric shock therapy. Shock treatments have been tested extensively and have been shown to have no effect on the outcome of the bite. Electric shocks do not neutralise snake venom.
- ♣ Do not apply a tourniquet. Many people are bitten by harmless snakes or venomous snakes that do not inject sufficient venom to cause serious damage. Arterial or venous tourniquets are not advised in most bites as venom is transported largely through the lymphatic system and not through veins. There is little evidence that a tourniquet could be lifesaving following a snakebite.
- Do not apply heat, ice, lotions or potions. Apart from cleaning the bite site with water and applying a sterile gauze dressing nothing should be applied to the bite. Very hot water does not neutralise snake venom.
- → Do not inject antivenom as a first aid measure. Most snakebite victims do not require antivenom and the polyvalent antivenom is only effective for the bites of certain potentially deadly snakes. If required, antivenom must be injected intravenously by a medical doctor and usually in large quantities. As victims may go into anaphylactic shock when injected with antivenom, adrenaline and other drugs may also be required. Anaphylactic shock is a serious medical condition which may be fatal if not treated promptly.

IRST AID PRINKESPIRE

FIRST AID KITS

We stock a wide range of First Aid for Snakebite Kits, as well as Smart Pressure Bandages, Resuscitators, and first aid books. View the range online here.





FIRST AID FOR SNAKEBITE



IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKEBITE, DO...

- → Do get the victim to a hospital as soon as possible and in a safe manner. This is by far the most important first aid measure. For medical advice in a snakebite emergency, call the African Snakebite Institute +27 (0)82 494 2039.
- → Do keep the victim calm. Often easier said than done as people tend to panic in a snakebite emergency. Many snakebite victims go into shock, experience a drop in blood pressure and may even become nauseous and faint. If possible, do not allow the victim to walk, run, jump etc. Bear in mind that more than 99% of snakebite victims that are hospitalised within a few hours survive their snakebites.
- Do remove jewellery as well as tight clothing. If bitten on the hand/arm/foot/ lower leg, remove rings, bangles, bracelets, watches, anklets and any other tight jewellery including tight clothing.
- → Do administer artificial respiration if patient stops breathing. In serious snakebite cases involving snakes with predominantly neurotoxic venom, like the Black Mamba or Cape Cobra, the victim may soon experience difficulty with breathing, even within 20 minutes. This is a very serious medical condition and assisted breathing could be life-saving. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation may be beneficial in the short term, but the proper use of a Bag Valve Mask is far better in such an instance.

SPITTING SNAKES

- ★ The common spitting snakes in South Africa are the Mozambique Spitting
 Cobra or M'Fezi and the Rinkhals. In the western parts of the country these are
 replaced by the Black Spitting Cobra. These snakes spray their venom up to a
 distance of three metres and do so in self-defence to temporarily blind their
 attacker so that they can make a quick escape.
- ★ Although spitting snakes accurately aim for the eyes, the venom diffuses into a spray over a wide area and may get onto your hair, face, arms and chest. Venom in the eyes is very painful and must be flushed or diluted as quickly as possible. The production of tears starts this process, but as a first aid measure, flush the eyes with water or a weak (normal) saline solution. The idea is to flush away any excess venom. Transport the victim to a medical doctor, who will examine the eyes for corneal damage and prescribe antibiotic eye drops to prevent secondary infection. There is no reason to use diluted antivenom it has no proven benefits and may cause an allergic reaction.
- If treated quickly, the chance of permanent damage to the eyes is extremely remote.

SNAKEBITE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Netcare Ambulance: 082 911

ER24 Ambulance: 084 124

Provincial Ambulance: 10177/112

African Snakebite Institute: +27 (0)82 494 2039

HOSPITALS AROUND NOUPOORT

Fritz Visser Hospital

Tel: 049 843 1448 (-31.173562, 24.956670) Unnamed Road, Noupoort, 5950

Wilhelm Stahl Hospital (Middelberg)

Tel: 049 842 1111 (-31.491178, 24.996529) Du Plessis st, Middelburg - Ec, Middelburg, 5900

Manne Dipico Hospital (Colesberg)

Tel: 051 753 9300 (-30.711313, 25.113327) R56, Colesberg, 9795



SNAKE REMOVERS CONTACTS

Find SNAKE REMOVERS in Noupoort

HERE

DOWNLOAD THE FREE
ASI SNAKES APP
HERE







The ASI team travels thousands of kilometres a month, often to remote parts of southern Africa, for both snake awareness and venomous snake handling training and for reptile surveys.

We're honoured to have great sponsors, who've made significant changes to our fleet of hardworking vehicles, ensuring they meet our every need.

We'd like to thank our sponsors for making the smooth travel possible.

ASI VEHICLE SPONSORS









OVERLAND



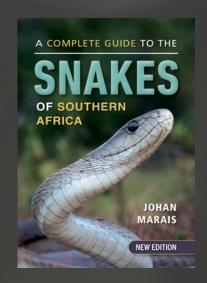


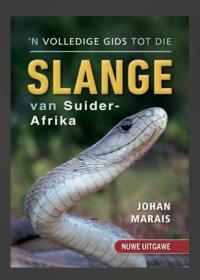


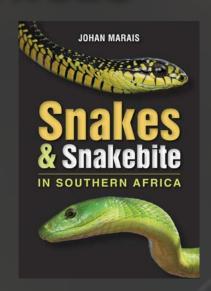




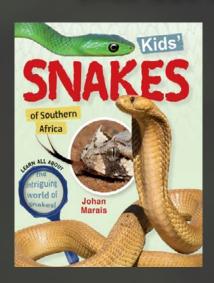
MORE RESOURCES



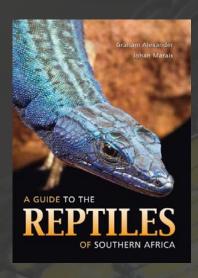




SHOP OUR RANGE OF BOOKS ONLINE HERE.







CONTACT US

Snake Courses: +27 64 704 7229 or courses@asiorg.co.za

Snake Handling Equipment: +27 60 957 2713 or info@asiorg.co.za

Snake Identification: +27 72 979 1249 or support@asiorg.co.za

Snakebite Emergencies: +27 82 494 2039