



## SNAKE PROFILE

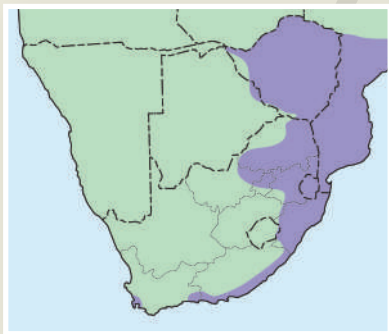


# Green Water Snake

(*Philothamnus hoplogaster*)

**HARMLESS**

**Other names:**  
Southeastern Green Snake;  
Groenwaterslang



A smallish bright green snake that averages 60 cm in length with a maximum length of 1 m. It is day-active and favours damp localities such as reed swamps, riverine thickets and flood plains where it feeds mainly on frogs. It also eats fish, small lizards and juveniles reportedly eat grasshoppers. Like the harmless Natal Green snakes it is often mistaken for a Green Mamba and needlessly killed.

Most individuals are bright emerald green with a whitish belly but some, especially further north, have a few blackish bars behind the head.

At night it sleeps on the outer edges of vegetation where it will drop to the ground to escape if threatened. It is an excellent swimmer.

This snake is not venomous and completely harmless to humans.

