



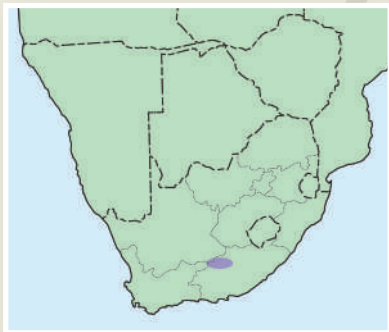
Snake Profile



Plain Mountain Adder (*Bitis inornata*)

DANGEROUS

Other names:
Ongemerkte Bergadder



A small adder averaging 30 cm with a maximum size of 35 cm. This endemic is listed as Endangered in the current Reptile Atlas.

It is largely limited to grasslands above 1,500 masl in the Sneeuberg range and the surrounding mountains of Graaff-Reinet. Where it occurs the winter temperatures plummet during snow and frost. The Plain Mountain Adder spends much of its time hiding under rocks and basks in the early morning and late afternoon. It lacks horns above the eyes.

Between 5 – 8 very small young are produced in late summer. Nothing is known of the venom of this snake but it is thought to be similar to that of other small adders, causing pain and swelling. Individuals usually hiss and strike when encountered.

Extensive sheep farming in the area may negatively impact on the future survival of this rare snake. Individuals are also sought after for the pet trade.



Photo Bill Branch



Photo Marius Burger