

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



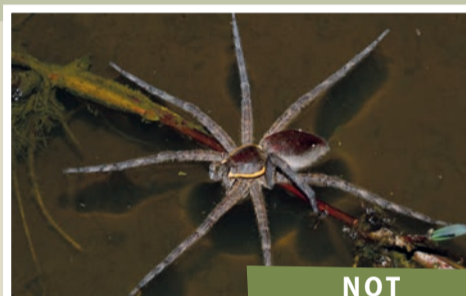
NOT DANGEROUS

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



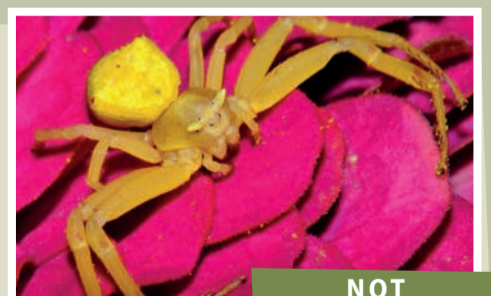
NOT DANGEROUS

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.

Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute
+27 82 494 2039 | johan@asiorg.co.za

www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com

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.