

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Southern Africa has one hundred and seventy three different types of snakes. Seventy two are not venomous, while twenty nine can inflict rather painful bites. Twenty species are considered potentially deadly.

**VERY DANGEROUS**  
Has caused human fatalities

**DANGEROUS**  
Painful bite, but does not require antivenom



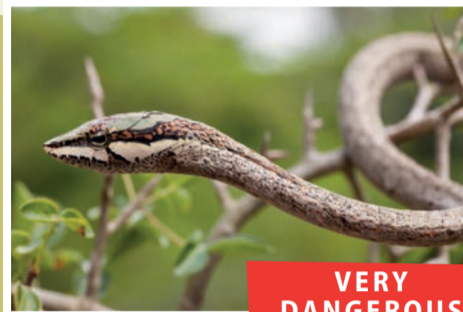
**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Southern Twig Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis capensis*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Common Boomslang - male**  
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Common Boomslang - female**  
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*)



**DANGEROUS**

**Bibron's Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Black-necked Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricollis*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Black Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*) Photo Marius Burger



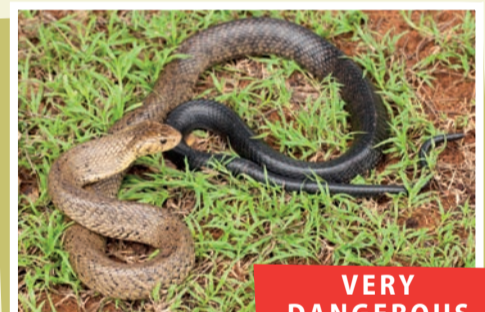
**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



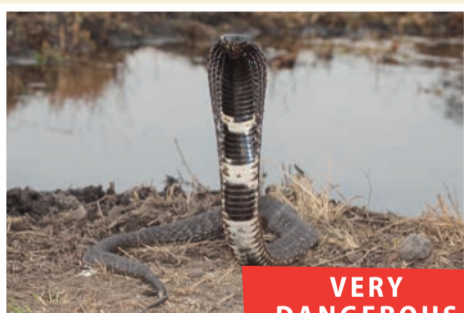
**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja melanoleuca*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Zebra Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta nigricincta*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

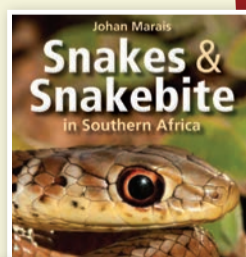
**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Gaboon Adder**  
(*Bitis gabonica*)

**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**, **Scorpion 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. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).



## 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 help-line 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.

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