

COMMON SNAKES OF NAMAQUALAND



Namaqualand has a great variety of snakes with most of them not considered dangerous. Four species can inflict painful bites while three species can be considered very dangerous.

VERY DANGEROUS

Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Cobra (*Naja nivea*)



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Cape Cobra - juvenile (*Naja nivea*) Photo Marius Burger



VERY DANGEROUS

Cape Cobra (*Naja nivea*)



VERY DANGEROUS

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



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder (*Bitis arietans arietans*)



DANGEROUS

Many-horned Adder (*Bitis cornuta*)



DANGEROUS

Horned Adder (*Bitis caudalis*)



DANGEROUS

Coral Shield Cobra (*Aspidelaps lubricus lubricus*)



DANGEROUS

Namaqua Dwarf Adder (*Bitis schneideri*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Beetz's Tiger Snake (*Telescopus beetzii*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Dwarf Beaked Snake (*Dipsina multimaculata*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Karoo Sand Snake (*Psammophis notostictus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake (*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

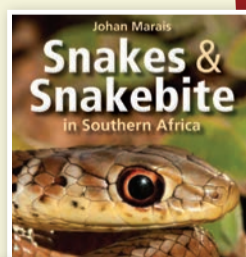
Rhombic Egg-eater (*Dasypeltis scabra*)



CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE

Mole Snake (*Pseudaspis cana*)

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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