

COMMON SNAKES OF THE SOUTHERN DRC



There are in the region of 137 different types of snakes in the DRC and most of them are not dangerous. Six types of snakes in the southern DRC are considered potentially deadly with the Black Mamba the most 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

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



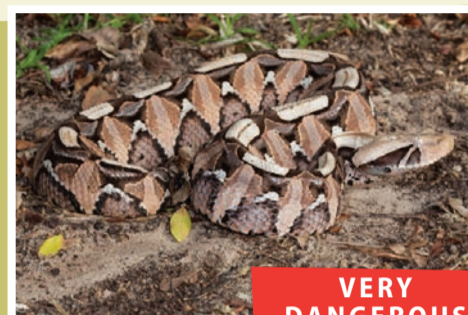
VERY DANGEROUS

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Black-necked Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricollis*)



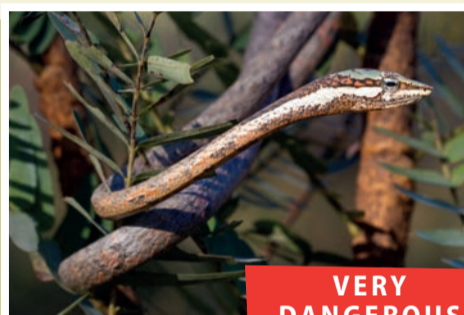
VERY DANGEROUS

Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis gabonica*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Oates' Twig Snake
(*Thelotornis capensis oatesii*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Common Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Common Boomslang - female
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*)



DANGEROUS

Rhombic Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



DANGEROUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Olive Grass Snake
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald or Red-lipped Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



HARMLESS

Rhombic Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)



HARMLESS

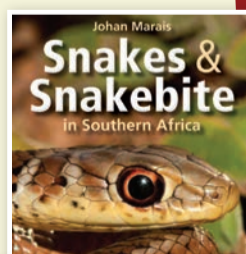
Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



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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