

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF ZIMBABWE



Zimbabwe has eighty one different types of snakes. Thirty three species are not venomous, while ten can inflict rather painful bites. Thirteen 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**

**Eastern Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis intermedius*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

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



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Eastern Twig Snake**  
(*Thelotornis mossambicanus*) Photo David Maguire



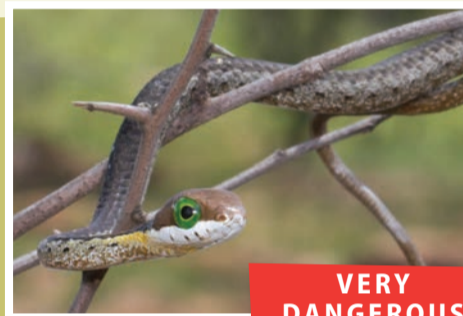
**VERY DANGEROUS**

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



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Common Boomslang - female**  
(*Dispholidus typus viridis*) Photo André Coetzer



**VERY DANGEROUS**

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



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Anchieta's Cobra**  
(*Naja anchietae*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

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



**VERY DANGEROUS**

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



**VERY DANGEROUS**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

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



**DANGEROUS**

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



**DANGEROUS**

**Berg Adder**  
(*Bitis atropos*) Photo James Harvey



**VERY DANGEROUS**

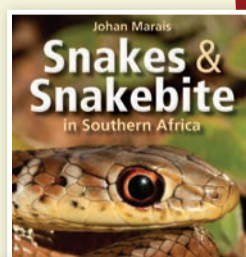
**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



**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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