Namaqua Dwarf Adder

*(Bitis schneideri)*

**Maximum Length:**
28 cm

**Other names:**
Namakwadwergadder

This is the smallest adder in the world, averaging around 20 cm. It occurs in coastal dunes in Namaqualand and southern Namibia where it feeds on lizards and Rain frogs. It is preyed upon by a variety of small carnivores and predatory birds as well as other snakes, but the biggest threat comes from habitat destruction and illegal collecting for the pet trade.

The Namaqua Dwarf Adder is largely active in the early evenings and at night but can be seen basking in the mornings. It sidewinds and shuffles into soft sand with only the eyes and top of the head exposed. The venom of this snake is mildly cytotoxic causing pain and swelling. Antivenom is not effective and is not required.