

COMMON SCORPIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



VERY DANGEROUS

Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS

May be life threatening in small children and animals

HARMLESS

Painful sting, but does not require antivenom



VERY DANGEROUS

Rough Thicktail - light form
(*Parabuthus granulatus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Rough Thicktail - dark form
(*Parabuthus granulatus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Transvaal Thicktail
(*Parabuthus transvaalicus*)



DANGEROUS

Cape Thicktail
(*Parabuthus capensis*)



DANGEROUS

Drab Thicktail
(*Parabuthus planicauda*)



DANGEROUS

Eastern Nomad
(*Hottentotta trilineatus*)



HARMLESS

Common Lesser-Thicktail
(*Uroplectes carinatus*)



HARMLESS

Highveld Lesser-Thicktail
(*Uroplectes triangulifer triangulifer*)



HARMLESS

Striped Lesser-Thicktail
(*Uroplectes lineatus*)



HARMLESS

Bark Scorpion
(*Uroplectes vittatus*)



HARMLESS

Plain Pygmy-Thicktail
(*Pseudolychas ochraceus*)



HARMLESS

Rough Burrower
(*Opisthophthalmus glabrifrons*)



HARMLESS

Cape Burrower
(*Opisthophthalmus capensis*)



HARMLESS

Kalahari Burrower
(*Opisthophthalmus wahlbergii*)



HARMLESS

Karoo Burrower
(*Opisthophthalmus karroensis*)



HARMLESS

Giant Rock Scorpion - male
(*Hadogenes troglodytes*)



HARMLESS

Rock Scorpion - female
(*Hadogenes longimanus*)



HARMLESS

Tree Creeper
(*Opisthacanthus asper*)



HARMLESS

Drakensberg Creeper
(*Opisthacanthus validus*)



HARMLESS

Jones's Creeper
(*Cheloctonus jonesii*)

NOTE

In the case of stings from harmless species, apply a topical anaesthetic cream to manage the pain.



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.

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EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

STINGS FROM DANGEROUS AND VERY DANGEROUS SCORPIONS MUST BE TREATED AS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

- 1 Transport the victim to hospital *without delay*.
- 2 Immobilize the affected limb to slow the spread of venom.
- 3 If the victim stops breathing, apply artificial respiration or use a Bag Valve Mask.
- 4 Call the Poison Information Centre helpline 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.