

MILDLY VENOMOUS



Eastern Purple-glossed Snake (*Amlyodipsas m. microphthalma*)

Maximum Length:
33 cm



Other names:

Oostelike persglansslang

A rare burrowing species that is seldom encountered except after heavy rains or when soil is excavated. The venom of this snake has not been well studied but is not considered dangerous to humans. This snake averages around 30 cm in length, but may reach a length of 33 cm. It is usually uniform black with a purplish sheen with white to yellow flanks. Pitch black specimens are sometimes found, especially in Limpopo. It is docile, seldom attempting to bite. If threatened it may hide its head under the body and move the tail tip so as to distract the aggressor and protect its head. This snake is easily confused with a number of other small shiny black snakes such as the venomous Stiletto Snake.

