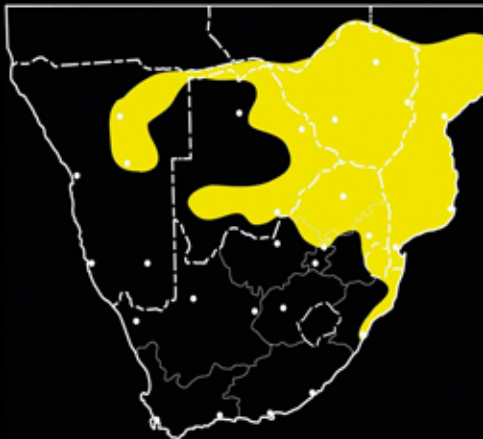




HARMLESS

Black File Snake (*Gracililima nyassae*)

Maximum Length:
 65 cm



Other names:
 Swartvylslang

A small file snake that averages 50 cm, with a maximum length of 65 cm. The Black File Snake is relatively rare but may be caught in traps on reptile surveys or found crossing roads at night. It is nocturnal and hunts for prey such as lizards and frogs. When confronted it moves in jerky movements and will hide its head under its coils. It will also emit a foul-smelling liquid if handled. Unlike the Common File Snake, this snake lacks the light dorsal stripe but has the characteristic triangular body. It is usually uniform purple-brown to blackish above with mauve to pink skin between the scales. The belly is dark olive to black or yellowish-white.

