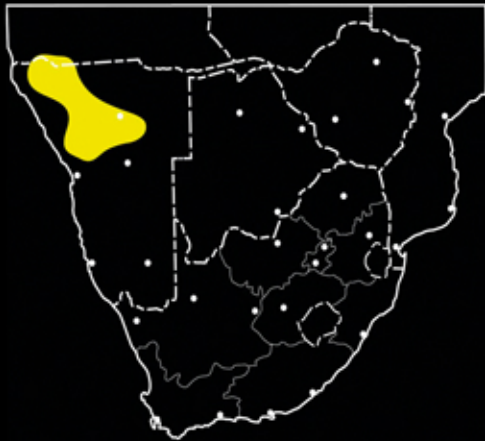




MILDLY VENOMOUS

Viperine Rock Snake (*Hemirhagerhis viperinus*)

Maximum Length:
30 cm



Other names:

Westelike Baslang

A slender and docile snake that averages around 28 cm but can reach 30cm in length. These secretive snakes hide in deep rock cracks. They hunt lizards and skinks and have been observed using the orange tail tip to lure lizards into striking range.

They occupy Karoo vegetation and arid savanna in Namibia. This well-camouflaged snake is cryptic between the rocks where it ambushes its prey. The zigzag pattern down the back is unique for the genus and helps with identification. When handled it seldom attempts to bite and the venom of this species has virtually no effect on humans.

