

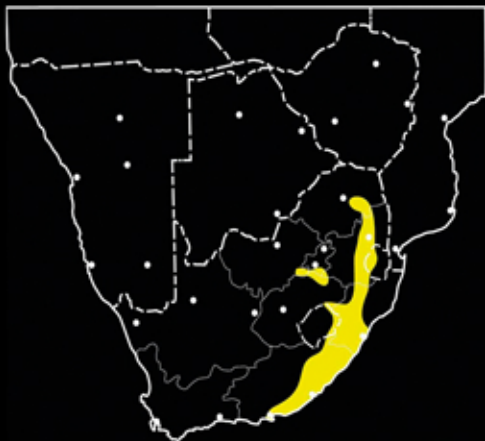


HARMLESS



Dusky-bellied Water Snake (*Lycodonomorphus laevissimus*)

Maximum Length:
1.2 m



Other names:
Swart Waterslang

The largest of our water snakes, averaging 30-60 cm but reaching 1.2 m in length. It is largely aquatic and favours pools and shaded streams where it often swims submerged. Although harmless the Dusky-bellied Water Snake bites readily. It feeds on frogs, tadpoles and fish that it may swallow under water or carry to the edge of the water to swallow. Females produce 4 – 17 eggs. This snake is dark olive grey to brownish or black above with a cream to yellow belly that has dark blotches that often form a jagged broad band down the centre of the belly. The eyes are very prominent and are quite high up on the side of the head.

