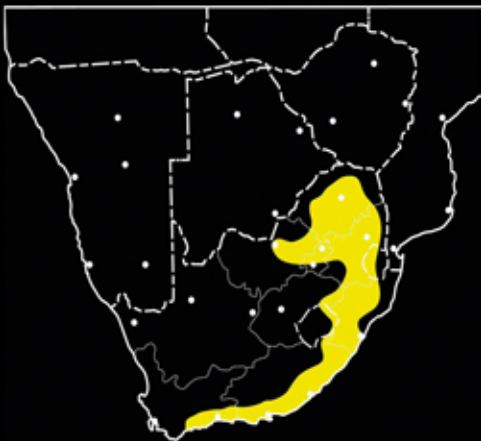




Western Natal Green Snake (*Philothamnus occidentalis*)

Maximum Length:
1.3 m



Other names:

Westelike Natal Groenslang

A beautiful, bright green snake that is active during the day when it hunts for geckos and frogs. This snake climbs well but is often found on the ground, especially along the banks of well-shaded rivers and streams. It is quick to escape when disturbed and will bite readily if handled but is completely harmless. Because of the green colour it is often mistaken for a Boomslang or Green Mamba and needlessly killed. The Western Natal Green Snake has a whitish belly and may have a bluish tinge and occasionally some darker blotches on the back. It occurs south of Amanzimtoti and inland towards the Drakensberg and further north, as well as into the Eastern Cape and Western Cape to around Swellendam.

