

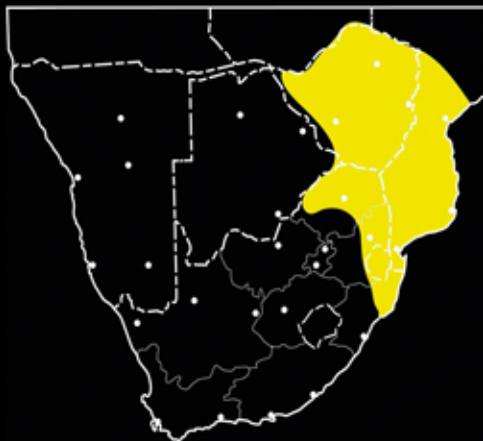


Photo Luke Kemp

HARMLESS

East African Shovel-snout (*Prosymna stuhlmanni*)

Maximum Length:
35 cm



Other names:

Gespikkelde Graafneusslang

A smallish snake averaging around 18-25 cm reaching 35 cm. This snake inhabits lowland forest and moist savanna where it may be found under rocks or logs or in leaf litter. It is extremely docile and rarely attempts to bite. Unlike the other shovel-snouted snakes this snake does not coil and uncoil when threatened. May be confused with other shovel-snouted snakes but usually has small whitish spots flanking the vertebrae and a yellow snout. The snout is not as pointed as other shovel-snout species. It feeds on reptile eggs, especially hard-shelled gecko eggs, as well as young lizards and reportedly flying ants. Females lay 3 – 4 eggs. This snake is harmless and poses no threat to humans.

