

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF SIERRA LEONE



Sierra Leone has a large selection of snakes across different habitats. Ten species are considered highly venomous and around eight species are dangerous or can inflict a painful bite.

**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

Has caused  
human fatalities

**VENOMOUS**

Painful bite, but does  
not require antivenom



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Western Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis viridis*) - photo Bill Branch



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Black-necked Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricollis*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Black-necked Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricollis*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Black Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja guineensis*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Western Gaboon Adder**  
(*Bitis rhinoceros*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Forest Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - Photo Steve Spawls



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Western Bush Viper**  
(*Atheris chlorechis*) - photo Mo Rodel



**VENOMOUS**

**Forest Night Adder**  
(*Causus maculatus*) - Photo Jelmer Groen



**VENOMOUS**

**Forest Night Adder**  
(*Causus maculatus*)



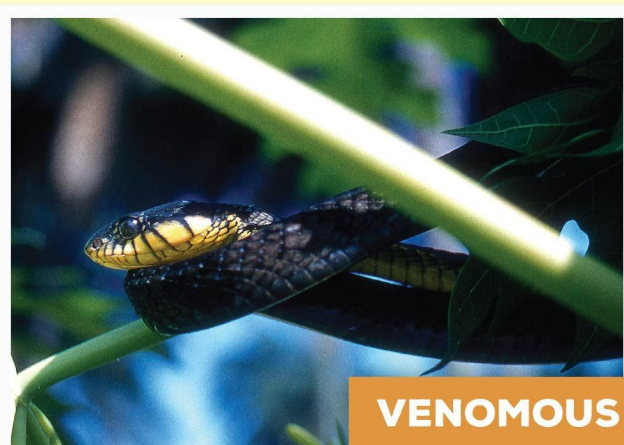
**VENOMOUS**

**Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis* sp.) - Photo Luke Kemp



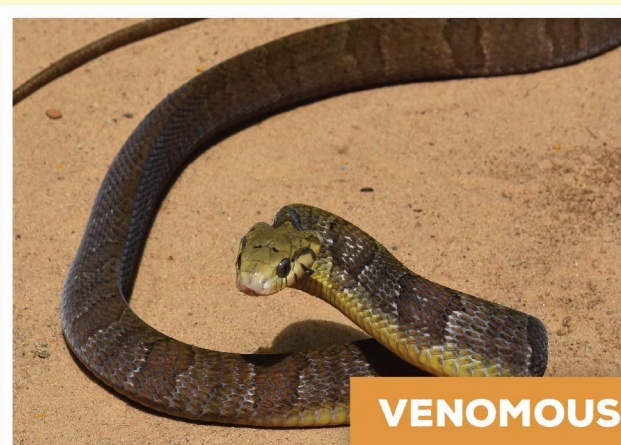
**VENOMOUS**

**Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis* sp.) - Photo Bill Branch



**VENOMOUS**

**Blanding's Tree Snake - male**  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Photo Gerald Dunger



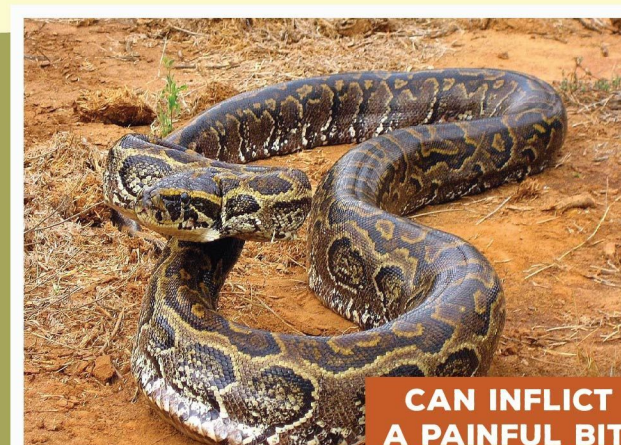
**VENOMOUS**

**Blanding's Tree Snake - female**  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Dr Jean-François Trape



**VENOMOUS**

**Blanding's Tree Snake - juvenile**  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - photo Luke Verburgt



**CAN INFLICT  
A PAINFUL BITE**

**African Rock Python**  
(*Python sebae*) - Photo Steve Spawls

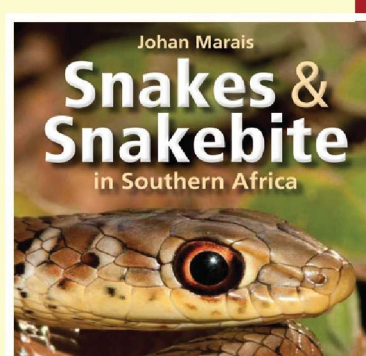
**JOHAN MARAIS** is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and offers a variety of courses including **Snake Awareness**, **Scorpion Awareness** and **Venomous Snake Handling**. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

**Free ASI SNAKES App**

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## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

### IN THE EVENT OF A SNAKE BITE

- 1 Keep the victim calm, immobilized and transport the victim to the closest hospital **without delay**.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or make use of a Bag Valve Mask.
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre help-line for further advice: +27 861 555 777.

### DO NOT

- ... apply a tourniquet.
  - ... cut and suck the wound.
  - ... use ice or very hot water.
  - ... give the victim alcohol.
  - ... apply electric shock.
  - ... inject antivenom randomly.
- Antivenom (if required) must be administered by a doctor in a hospital environment.