

# COMMON SNAKES OF RIETVLEI NATURE RESERVE



Rietvlei Nature Reserve has around 21 species of snakes. Two species are considered highly venomous. Three species can give a bad bite. Seven species are mildly venomous. Nine species are harmless to humans.

## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Has caused human fatalities

## VENOMOUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

## MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful to humans

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



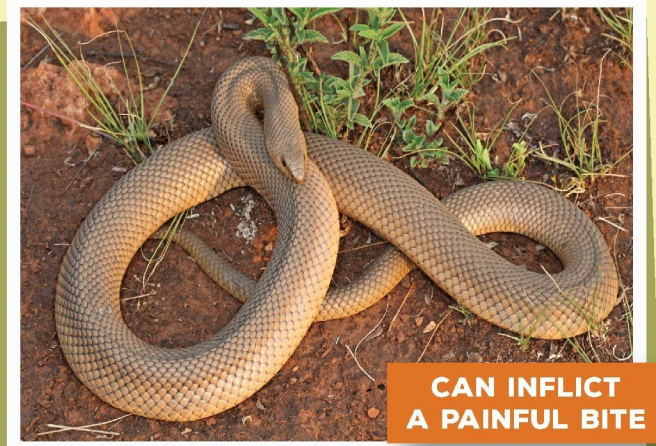
**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Common Night Adder**  
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**Mole Snake - adult**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Skaapsteker**  
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Short-snouted Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis brevirostris*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Cross-marked Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



**HARMLESS**

**Mole Snake - juvenile**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Herald Snake**  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*) - photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Black-headed Centipede-eater**  
(*Aparallactus capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

**Aurora House Snake**  
(*Lamprophis aurora*)



**HARMLESS**

**Brown Water Snake**  
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

**Common Wolf Snake**  
(*Lycophidion capense*)



**HARMLESS**

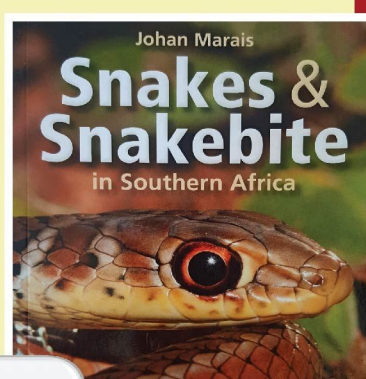
**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*) - Photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

**Bibron's Blind Snake**  
(*Afrotyphlops bibronii*)

**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: 0861 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.