



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Photo Steve Spawls

# Forest Vine Snake

*(Thelotornis kirtlandii)*



Max length  
1.6 m



This perfectly-camouflaged tree-living snake is seldom seen because of its excellent camouflage and habit of remaining very still in low shrubs, observing the ground below for passing lizards and snakes. Birds often mob this snake and it will inflate its neck with its bright orange tongue flickering. It is one of the prettiest vine snakes with a bright green head and bars down the throat. It is an extremely placid snake but, if provoked, will inflate its neck and strike viciously. Like the Boomslang, the venom of this snake is haemotoxic affecting the blood clotting mechanism and causing uncontrolled bleeding. There is no antivenom for bites from this snake.



Photo Harald Hinkel

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