



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Southern Vine Snake

(Thelotornis capensis)



Max length
1.7 m

This perfectly-camouflaged tree-living snake is seldom seen because of its excellent camouflage and habit of remaining motionless 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 an extremely placid snake but, if provoked, will inflate its neck and strike viciously. Most bites are to snake handlers. 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. There are two subspecies.

