

COMMON SNAKES OF SWARTRUGGENS



Swartruggens has around twenty six different species of snakes. Six species are considered highly venomous. Another three may give a bad bite but are not life-threatening. Seven are considered mildly venomous and the other ten are completely 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

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Snouted Cobra
(*Naja annulifera*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Mozambique Spitting Cobra
(*Naja mossambica*)



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

Southern African Python
(*Python natalensis*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Common Purple-glossed Snake
(*Amblyodipsas polylepis*)



VENOMOUS

Bibron's Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Short-snouted Grass Snake
(*Psammodromus brevirostris*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Dwarf Sand Snake
(*Psammodromus angolensis*) - photo Ashley Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Striped Skaapsteker
(*Psammodromus tritaeniatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - Photo: Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

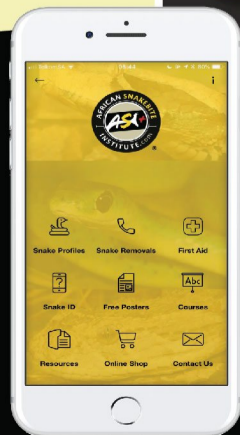
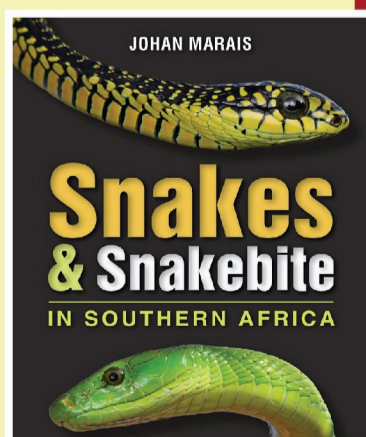
Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotrophlops 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 CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling. ASI is accredited by the **International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS)** and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. The courses are also accredited by the **Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)**. ASI is the largest provider of quality snake handling and safety equipment in Africa.



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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.