

COMMON SNAKES OF SWELLENDAM



Swellendam has around 19 species of snakes. Four species are considered highly venomous. Two species can inflict a painful bite. Four species are mildly venomous. Six 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

Cape Cobra
(*Naja nivea*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Rinkhals
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Many Spotted Reed Snake
(*Amplorhinus multimaculatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Harlequin
(*Homoroselaps lacteus*)



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



VENOMOUS

Berg Adder
(*Bitis atropos*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Grass Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonomorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

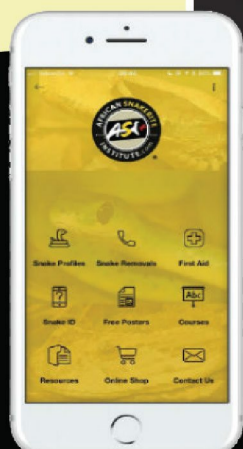
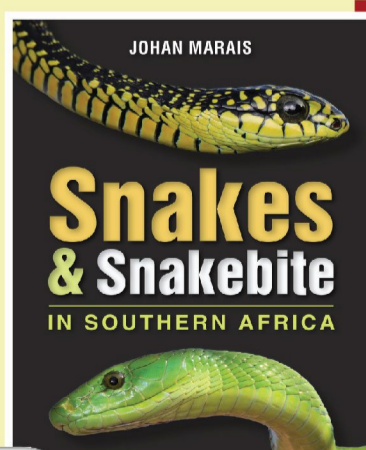
Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Common Slug-eater
(*Duberria lutrix*) - photo Luke Kemp

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.



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.