

COMMON AND DANGEROUS SNAKES OF GHANA



Ghana has a large variety of snakes. Around fourteen species of snakes are highly venomous. About twelve are venomous but not deadly. The majority of snakes encountered are either mildly venomous or harmless to humans.

HIGHLY
VENOMOUS

Has caused
human fatalities

VENOMOUS

Painful bite, but does
not require antivenom

MILDLY
VENOMOUS

Not thought
to be harmful

HARMLESS

Not dangerous
to humans



Western Green Mamba
(*Dendroaspis viridis*) - Photo Bill Branch



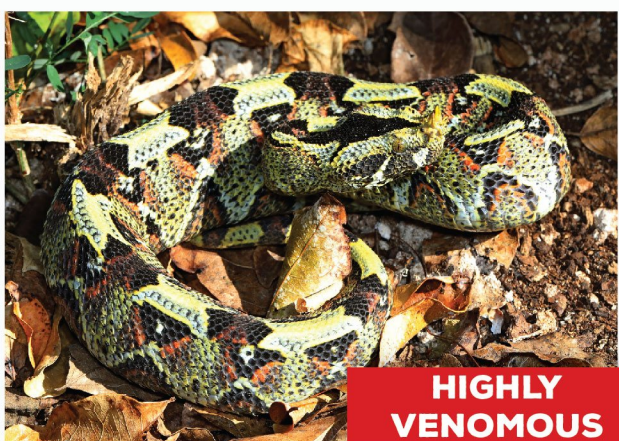
Black-necked Spitting Cobra - juvenile
(*Naja nigricollis*)



Forest Cobra
(*Naja melanoleuca/savannula*)



Forest Vine Snake
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - photo Richard Mckibbin



Rhino Horned Viper
(*Bitis nasicornis*)



Western Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis rhinoceros*) - photo Luke Kemp



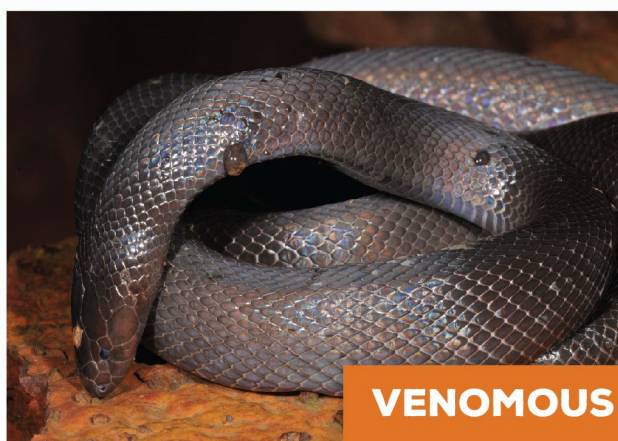
Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



Carpet Viper
(*Echis romani/ocellatus*)



African Rock Python
(*Python sebae*)



Stiletto Snakes
(*Atractaspis spp.*) - Photo Bill Branch



Blanding's Tree Snake - male
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Photo Gerald Dunger



Western Bush Viper
(*Atheris chlorechis*) - photo Mo Rodel



Spotted Night Adder
(*Causus maculatus*) - Photo Jelmer Groen



Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



Olive Grass Snake
(*Psammophis sp.*)



Common Emerald Snake
(*Hapsidophrys smaragdina*)



Ball Python
(*Python regius*) - Photo Luke Kemp



Common Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus irregularis*)



African House Snake
(*Boaedon sp.*)



Variegated Marsh Snake
(*Natriciteres variegata*) - Photo Bill Branch

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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