

# COMMON SNAKES OF ZIMBABWE



Zimbabwe has around 72 species of snakes. Twelve species are considered highly venomous. Nine species are venomous and another two can deliver a painful bite that may require stitches. Twenty species are mildly venomous and twenty-nine 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

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

**Boomslang - male**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

**Southern Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis*)



## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans*)



## VENOMOUS

**Snouted Night Adder**  
(*Causus deflippii*)



## VENOMOUS

**Common Night Adder**  
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



## MILDLY VENOMOUS

**Herald Snake**  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



## MILDLY VENOMOUS

**Eastern Tiger Snake**  
(*Teloscopus semiannulatus*)



## MILDLY VENOMOUS

**Common Purple-glossed Snake**  
(*Amblyodipsas polylepis*)



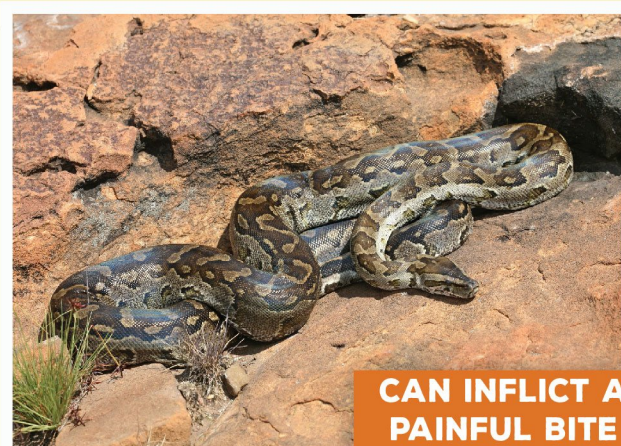
## MILDLY VENOMOUS

**Olive Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



## MILDLY VENOMOUS

**Western Yellow-bellied Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis subtaeniatus*)



## CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

**Southern African Python**  
(*Python natalensis*)



## HARMLESS

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*) Photo: Luke Kemp



## HARMLESS

**Common Wolf Snake**  
(*Lycophidion capense*)



## HARMLESS

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



## HARMLESS

**Green Water Snake**  
(*Philothamnus hoplogaster*)



## HARMLESS

**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*) Photo: Luke Kemp



## HARMLESS

**Zambezi Blind Snake**  
(*Afrotyphlops dinga*)

**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.

Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute

+27 82 494 2039 | [johan@asiorg.co.za](mailto:johan@asiorg.co.za)

[www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com](http://www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com)

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