

# COMMON SNAKES OF NAMAQUALAND



Namaqualand has around 27 species of snakes recorded. Three species are highly venomous, another four are considered venomous. Six species are mildly venomous and one other can give a painful bite. Thirteen of the species recorded are harmless and pose no threat to humans or pets.

## 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** - adult  
(*Naja nivea*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Black Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Cape Coral Snake**  
(*Aspidelaps lubricus*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Many-horned Adder**  
(*Bitis cornuta*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Horned Adder**  
(*Bitis caudalis*) - photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Beetz's Tiger Snake**  
(*Telescopus beetzii*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Dwarf Beaked Snake**  
(*Dipsina multimaculata*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Karoo Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



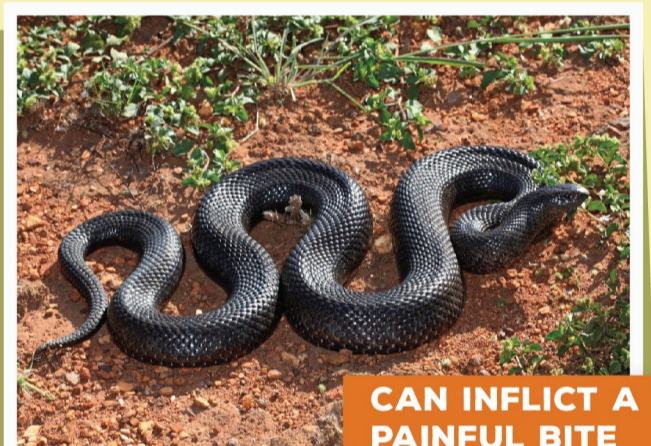
**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Cape Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis leightoni*) - photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Skaapsteker**  
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**Mole Snake**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**HARMLESS**

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*) - photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

**Bug-eyed House Snake**  
(*Boaedon mentalis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Rock Snake**  
(*Alopecion guttatum*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)

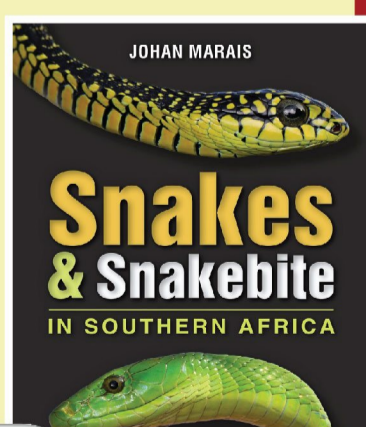
**JOHAN MARAIS** is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller ***A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa***. He is a popular public speaker and CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness, 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**

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)



## 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.