

# COMMON AND DANGEROUS SNAKES OF NIGERIA



Nigeria has a large variety of snakes. Around 12 species of snakes are highly venomous. About nine 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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Jameson's Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis jamesoni*) - Photo Bill Branch



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Forest Cobra**  
(*Naja melanoleuca/savannula*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Egyptian Cobra**  
(*Naja haje*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Gaboon Adder**  
(*Bitis gabonica*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Rhino Horned Viper**  
(*Bitis nasicornis*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Carpet Viper**  
(*Echis romani/ocellatus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Boomslang**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Forest Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - Photo Steve Spawls



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Blanding's Tree Snake - juvenile**  
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - photo Jean-François Trape



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Spotted Night Adder**  
(*Causus maculatus*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**African Rock Python**  
(*Python sebae*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

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



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Olive Grass Snakes**  
(*Psammophis spp.*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus irregularis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)



**HARMLESS**

**African House Snake**  
(*Boaedon fuliginosus*)

**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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