

# COMMON SNAKES OF DURBAN



Durban has around forty five different types of snakes. Six species are highly venomous, while four others can inflict a rather painful bites. Eight species are considered mildly venomous. The majority 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**

**Green Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis angusticeps*)



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



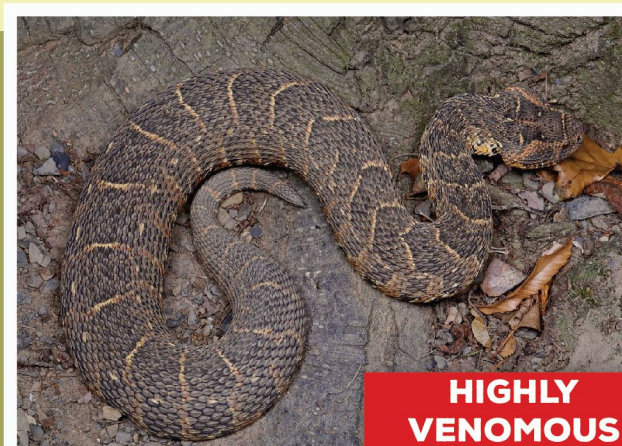
**VENOMOUS**

**Bibron's Stiletto Snake**  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



**VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

**Puff Adder**  
(*Bitis arietans*) - photo Luke Kemp



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Natal Black Snake**  
(*Macrelaps microlepidotus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Short-snouted Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis brevirostris*) - photo Luke Kemp



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

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



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

**Black-headed Centipede-eater**  
(*Aparallactus capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - photo Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Western Natal Green Snake**  
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Eastern Natal Green Snake**  
(*Philothamnus natalensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Southern Brown Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis inornata*)



**HARMLESS**

**Brown Water Snake**  
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*)



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*)

**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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