

# DANGEROUS SNAKES, SCORPIONS & SPIDERS OF THE HIGHVELD



The Highveld has few potentially dangerous snakes and spiders. There are no dangerous scorpions in the highveld. The majority of snakes, scorpions and spiders encountered will be harmless or mildly venomous. This poster represents the most dangerous species in these groups.

## HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Can cause  
human fatalities

## VENOMOUS

Painful bite or sting  
but does not require  
antivenom



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Cape Cobra**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Cape Cobra - juvenile**  
(*Naja nivea*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Rinkhals**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Rinkhals - juvenile**  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Rhombic Night Adder**  
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Highveld Garter Snake**  
(*Elapsoidea s. media*) - photo Adriaan Jordaan



**VENOMOUS**

**Highveld Garter Snake - juvenile**  
(*Elapsoidea s. media*) - photo Marius Burger



**CAN INFLICT A  
PAINFUL BITE**

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



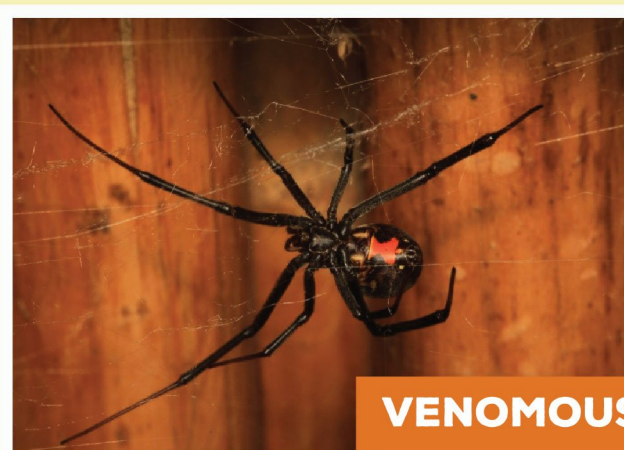
**CAN INFLICT A  
PAINFUL BITE**

**Mole Snake - adult**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Black Button Spider**  
(*Latrodectus sp.*)



**VENOMOUS**

**Brown Button Spider**  
(*Latrodectus sp.*) - photo Luke Kemp



**VENOMOUS**

**Sac Spider**  
(*Cheiracanthium sp.*) - photo Ashley Kemp



**VENOMOUS**

**Violin Spider**  
(*Loxosceles sp.*)

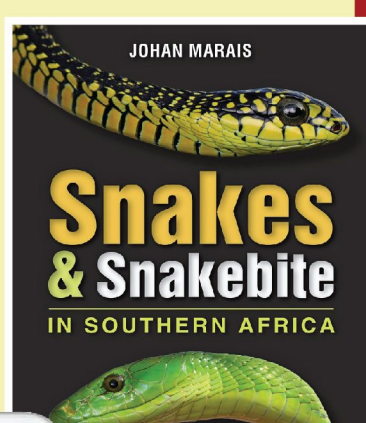
**JOHAN MARAIS** is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller **A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa**. He is a popular public speaker and CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness,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

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## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

### IN THE EVENT OF A BITE OR STING

- 1 Keep the victim calm, immobilized and in snakebites or scorpion stings transport the victim to the closest hospital **without delay**.
- 2 In suspected spider bites consult a medical doctor.
- 3 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration.
- 4 If possible, photograph the snake, spider or scorpion and send the photograph to **0824942039** via WhatsApp for positive identification.

### 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.