

COMMON SNAKES OF THE SOUTHERN DRC



The southern DRC has a large selection of snakes across a massive area. Ten species are considered highly venomous and around seven species are dangerous or can inflict a painful bite.

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**

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**HIGHLY
VENOMOUS**

Brown Forest Cobra
(*Naja subfulva*) - photo Luke Kemp



**HIGHLY
VENOMOUS**

Black-necked Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricollis*)



**HIGHLY
VENOMOUS**

Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis gabonica*)



**HIGHLY
VENOMOUS**

Spotted Boomslang
(*Dispholidus punctatus*)



**HIGHLY
VENOMOUS**

Oates' Vine Snake
(*Thelotornis capensis oatesii*)



**HIGHLY
VENOMOUS**

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder - Plain form
(*Causus rhombeatus*) - Photo Chad Keates



**CAN INFLICT A
PAINFUL BITE**

Southern African Python
(*Python natalensis*)



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Olive Grass Snake
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



**MILDLY
VENOMOUS**

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



VENOMOUS

Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis sp.*) - Photo Bill Branch



HARMLESS

Common Egg Eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)



HARMLESS

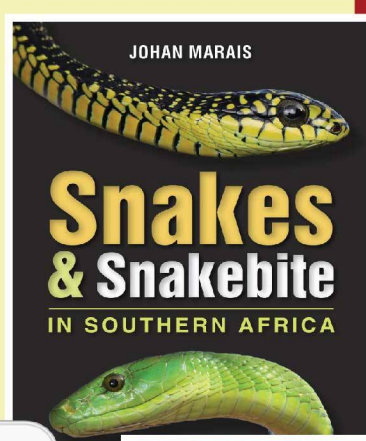
Sooty House Snake
(*Boaedon fuliginosus*)



HARMLESS

Common Wolf Snake
(*Lycophidion capense*)

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 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: +27 861 555 777.

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.