

COMMON SNAKES OF THE DRAKENSBERG



The Drakensberg has around 24 species of snakes. Two species are considered highly venomous. Another three species can give a bad bite. Seven species are mildly venomous and twelve other species 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 to humans

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Rinkhals
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Berg Adder
(*Bitis atropos*)



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Many-spotted Reed Snake
(*Amplorhinus multimaculatus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spotted Skaapsteker
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*) - photo Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Cross-marked Grass Snake
(*Psammophis crucifer*) - photo Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

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



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Yellow-bellied House Snake
(*Lamprophis fuscus*)



HARMLESS

Aurora House Snake
(*Lamprophis aurora*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonormorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonormorphus rufulus*)



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



HARMLESS

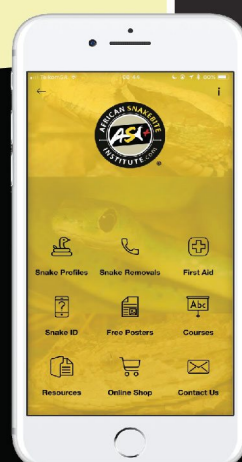
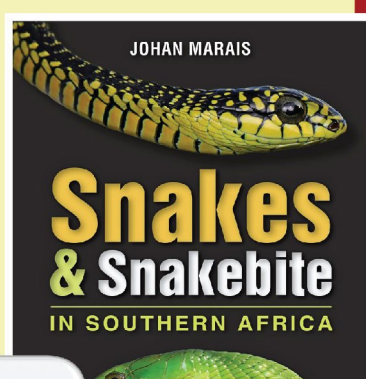
Common Slug-eater
(*Duberria lutrix*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Bibron's Blind Snake
(*Afrotyphlops bibronii*)

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: 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.