

COMMON SNAKES & SCORPIONS OF THE RICHTERSVELD



The Richtersveld has around 20 species of snakes. Three species are highly venomous and another three are considered venomous. Five species are mildly venomous and nine are harmless. There are around 15 scorpion species. Two are highly venomous and three are venomous. The rest are mildly venomous.

HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Has caused human fatalities

VENOMOUS

Painful bite/sting, but does not require antivenom

MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful to humans

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Cape Cobra
(*Naja nivea*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Black Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricincta woodi*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



VENOMOUS

Horned Adder
(*Bitis caudalis*)



VENOMOUS

Desert Mountain Adder
(*Bitis xeropaga*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Beetz's Tiger Snake
(*Telescopus beetzii*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Dwarf Beaked Snake
(*Dipsina multimaculata*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Western Sand Snake
(*Psammophis trigrammus*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Karoo Sand Snake
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

South-western Shovel-snout
(*Prosymna frontalis*)



HARMLESS

Western Thread Snake
(*Namibiana occidentalis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Rough Thicktail Scorpion
(*Parabuthus granulatus*) - photo Luke Kemp



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Hairy Thicktail Scorpion
(*Parabuthus villosus*) - photo Luke Kemp



VENOMOUS

Cape Thicktail Scorpion
(*Parabuthus capensis*)



VENOMOUS

Schlechter's Thicktail Scorpion
(*Parabuthus schlechteri*)

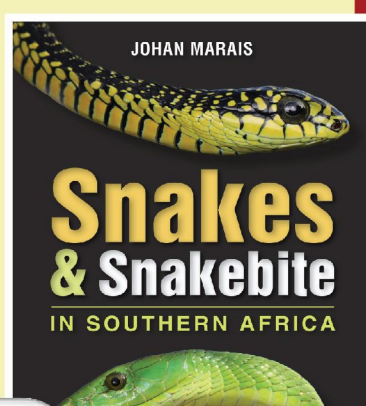
JOHAN MARAIS is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness,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