

COMMON SNAKES OF MTHATHA



Mthatha has around 25 species of snakes. Two species are highly venomous and another two are venomous. Six species are mildly venomous and another one can inflict a nasty bite. The other thirteen species are harmless.

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

Rinkhals
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*) - photo Luke Kemp



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

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



VENOMOUS

Common Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*) - photo Luke Kemp



VENOMOUS

Natal Black Snake
(*Macrelaps microlepidotus*)



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 hotamboeia*) - photo Luke Kemp



CAN INFLECT A PAINFUL BITE

Mole Snake
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Olive Snake
(*Lycodonornomorphus inornatus*)



HARMLESS

Brown Water Snake
(*Lycodonornomorphus rufulus*) - photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

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



HARMLESS

Western Natal Green Snake
(*Philothamnus occidentalis*)



HARMLESS

Southern Brown Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis inornata*)



HARMLESS

Common Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)

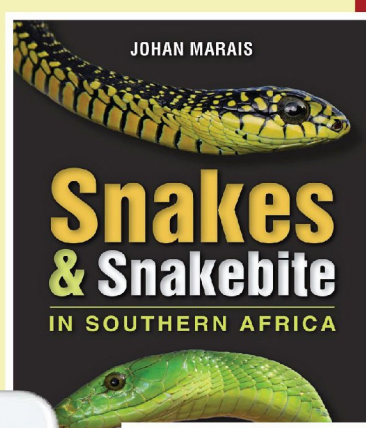
JOHAN MARAIS is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller **A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa**. He is a popular public speaker and CEO of the African Snakebite Institute. The **African Snakebite Institute (ASI)** offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness,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

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.