

# COMMON SNAKES OF PHALABORWA



Phalaborwa has around 35 different species of snakes. Six species are considered highly venomous while four species can inflict a painful bite and one other might require some stitches. Eleven species are mildly venomous and thirteen 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

## HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Black Mamba**  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Boomslang - male**  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Southern Vine Snake**  
(*Thelotornis capensis*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Snouted Cobra**  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Snouted Night Adder**  
(*Causus defilippii*)



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Mozambique Spitting Cobra**  
(*Naja mossambica*)



**CAN INFLICT A  
NASTY BITE**

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



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Eastern Tiger Snake**  
(*Telescopus semiannulatus*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Olive Grass Snake**  
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Western Yellow-bellied Sand Snake**  
(*Psammophis subtaeniatus*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Herald Snake**  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



**MILDLY  
VENOMOUS**

**Eastern Bark Snake**  
(*Hemirhagerrhis nototaenia*)



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - Photo: Luke Kemp



**HARMLESS**

**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Wolf Snake**  
(*Lycophidion capense*)



**HARMLESS**

**Common Egg-eater**  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



**HARMLESS**

**East-African Shovel-snout**  
(*Prosymna stuhlmanni*)



**HARMLESS**

**Schlegel's Blind Snake**  
(*Afrotyphlops schlegelii*)

**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.

Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute

+27 82 494 2039 | [johan@asiorg.co.za](mailto:johan@asiorg.co.za)

[www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com](http://www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com)

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