

COMMON SPIDERS OF SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa has well over 2,200 known species of spiders, with very few that are considered medically important. Most 'spider bites' are not spider bites, but rather infected wounds or bites from other invertebrates. None of our spiders are capable of inflicting life-threatening bites.

- **MEDICALLY IMPORTANT** - May require hospitalisation or a visit to a medical doctor.
- **PAINFUL BITE** - Mechanical damage from large fangs and possibly minor pain but does not require hospitalisation.
- **MILDLY VENOMOUS** - A minor bite and far less painful than a bee sting. Does not require a visit to a hospital or doctor.



Neurotoxic venom

MEDICALLY IMPORTANT

Black Button Spider
(*Latrodectus* sp.)



Neurotoxic venom

MEDICALLY IMPORTANT

Brown Button Spider
(*Latrodectus* sp.) - photo: Ashley Kemp



Cytotoxic venom

MEDICALLY IMPORTANT

Violin Spider
(*Loxosceles* sp.)



Cytotoxic venom

MEDICALLY IMPORTANT

Sac Spider
(*Cheiracanthium* sp.) - photo: Ashley Kemp



PAINFUL BITE

Baboon Spider
(*Theraphosidae*) - photo: Luke Kemp



PAINFUL BITE

Rain Spider / Huntsman Spider
(*Sparassidae*) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Wolf Spider
(*Lycosidae*) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Spitting Spider
(*Scytodes* sp.)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Scorpion Spider
(*Platyoides* sp.) - photo: Luke Verburgt



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Hairy Field Spider
(*Neoscona* sp.) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Golden Orb Spider
(*Trichonephila* sp.)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Garden Orb-web Spider
(*Argiope* sp.)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Jumping Spider
(*Salticidae*) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Crab Spider
(*Thomisidae*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Daddy Long-Legs Spider with eggs.
(*Pholcidae*) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Lynx Spider
(*Oxyopes* sp.)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Velvet Spider
(*Eresidae*) - photo: Ashley Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Nursery-web Spider
(*Pisauridae*) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

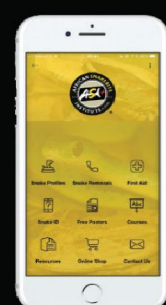
Green Pea Spider
(*Araneus apricus*) - photo: Luke Kemp



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Wall Spider
(*Selenopidae*) - photo: Luke Kemp

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.



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EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

IN THE EVENT OF A BITE FROM A MEDICALLY IMPORTANT SPIDER, VICTIMS NEED TO CONSULT WITH A MEDICAL DOCTOR AND IN CASES OF SEVERE PAIN OR COMPROMISED BREATHING, VICTIMS MAY NEED TO BE HOSPITALISED.

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.