

# COMMON SNAKES OF FRANCISTOWN



Francistown has around 22 species of snakes. Six species are considered highly venomous. Four species can give a bad bite. Six species are mildly venomous and another six 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**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HIGHLY VENOMOUS**

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



**VENOMOUS**

**Speckled Shield-nose Snake**  
(*Aspidelaps scutatus*)



**VENOMOUS**

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



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

**Mole Snake - adult**  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE**

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



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

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



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

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



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

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



**HARMLESS**

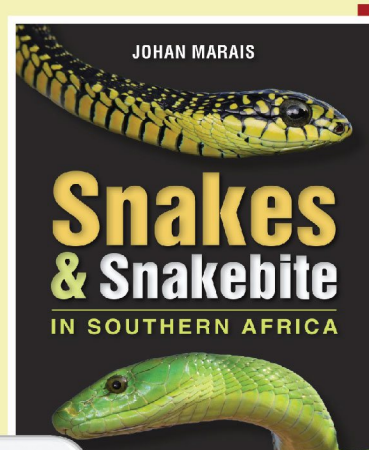
**Brown House Snake**  
(*Boaedon capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) - 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.



## FREE ASI SNAKES APP

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)

## 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.