

COMMON SNAKES OF THE SOUTHERN DRC



There are in the region of 137 different types of snakes in the DRC and most of them are not dangerous. Six types of snakes in the southern DRC are considered potentially deadly with the Black Mamba the most dangerous.

VERY DANGEROUS | Has caused human fatalities

DANGEROUS | Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

HARMLESS | Not dangerous to humans



VERY DANGEROUS

Black Mamba
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



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VERY DANGEROUS

Black-necked Spitting Cobra
(*Naja nigricollis*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis gabonica*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



DANGEROUS

Night Adder
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Boomslang - male
(*Dispholidus typus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Boomslang - female
(*Dispholidus typus*)



VERY DANGEROUS

Twig Snake
(*Thelotornis capensis oatesii*)



DANGEROUS

Stiletto Snake
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick



HARMLESS

Olive Grass Snake
(*Psammophis mossambicus*)



HARMLESS

Brown House Snake
(*Boaedon capensis*)



HARMLESS

Rhombic Egg-eater
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



HARMLESS

Spotted Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus semivariegatus*)



CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE

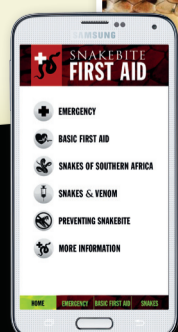
Mole Snake
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



HARMLESS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)

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 offers a variety of courses including **Snake Awareness**, **Scorpion Awareness** and **Venomous Snake Handling**. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA), NOSA and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).



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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.