

# COMMON SNAKES OF THE WEST COAST NATIONAL PARK



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Has caused human fatalities

**DANGEROUS**

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Not thought to be harmful

**HARMLESS**

Not dangerous to humans



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Cobra  
(*Naja nivea*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Cobra - juvenile  
(*Naja nivea*) Photo Marius Burger



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Boomslang - male  
(*Dispholidus typus typus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Boomslang - female  
(*Dispholidus typus typus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Puff Adder  
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Cape Grass Snake  
(*Psammophis leightoni*) Photo André Coetzer



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Karoo Sand Snake  
(*Psammophis notostictus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Cross-marked Grass Snake  
(*Psammophis crucifer*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Spotted Skaapsteker  
(*Psammophylax rhombeatus*)



**MILDLY VENOMOUS**

Herald or Red-lipped Snake  
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



**CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE**

Mole Snake  
(*Pseudaspis cana*)



**CAN INFLICT A NASTY BITE**

Mole Snake - juvenile  
(*Pseudaspis cana*) Photo Tyrone Ping



**HARMLESS**

Aurora House Snake  
(*Lamprophis aurora*)



**HARMLESS**

Brown Water Snake  
(*Lycodonomorphus rufulus*) Photo Tyrone Ping



**HARMLESS**

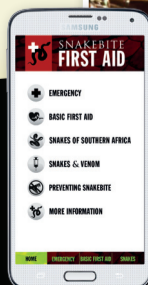
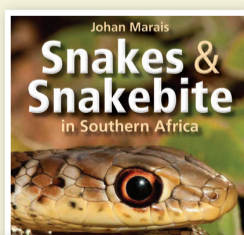
Rhombic Egg-eater  
(*Dasypeltis scabra*)



**HARMLESS**

Common Slug-eater  
(*Duberria lutrix lutrix*)

**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).



Johan Marais | +27 82 494 2039  
African Snakebite Institute  
johan@asi.org.co.za  
Visit [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.
- 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.