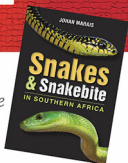




SNAKEBITE PROFILE

BIBRON'S STILETTO SNAKE

Atractaspis bibronii



Risk of Bites

Bibron's Stiletto Snake is largely active at night, especially on warm summer nights after a bout of rain. It may also fall into swimming pools and may be brought indoors by cats.



Most Bites

Most victims are bitten picking up Stiletto Snakes, mistaking them for a harmless snake. Otherwise, when stood on while walking barefoot at night.



Symptoms & Venom

The venom of this snake is potently cytotoxic, causing severe pain, local swelling, blistering, and potentially local tissue damage.

See pages 85-87

– *Snakes and Snakebite in Southern Africa*
(2024).



First Aid

There is virtually nothing that can be done. Elevate the affected limb and get to a hospital that has an emergency department.



Medical Treatment

As there is no antivenom for a bite from this snake, doctors need to treat for pain and rehydrate the victim. Anti-inflammatories, antibiotics and antihistamines are not effective and should not be administered. It is equally as important not to resort to any form of surgery for at least 5-7 days. Only thereafter should debridement be considered depending on the severity of the bite.

