

COMMON AND DANGEROUS SNAKES OF GHANA



Ghana has a large variety of snakes. Around fourteen species of snakes are highly venomous. About twelve are venomous but not deadly. The majority of snakes encountered are either mildly venomous or harmless to humans.

HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Has caused human fatalities

VENOMOUS

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom

MILDLY VENOMOUS

Not thought to be harmful

HARMLESS

Not dangerous to humans



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Western Green Mamba
(*Dendroaspis viridis*) - Photo Bill Branch



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Black-necked Spitting Cobra - juvenile
(*Naja nigricollis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Forest Cobra
(*Naja melanoleuca/savannula*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Forest Vine Snake
(*Thelotornis kirtlandii*) - photo Richard Mckibbin



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Rhino Horned Viper
(*Bitis nasicornis*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Western Gaboon Adder
(*Bitis rhinoceros*) - photo Luke Kemp



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Puff Adder
(*Bitis arietans*)



HIGHLY VENOMOUS

Carpet Viper
(*Echis romani/ocellatus*)



CAN INFLICT A PAINFUL BITE

African Rock Python
(*Python sebae*)



VENOMOUS

Stiletto Snakes
(*Atractaspis spp.*) - Photo Bill Branch



VENOMOUS

Blanding's Tree Snake - male
(*Toxicodryas blandingii*) - Photo Gerald Dunger



VENOMOUS

Western Bush Viper
(*Atheris chlorechis*) - photo Mo Rodel



VENOMOUS

Spotted Night Adder
(*Causus maculatus*) - Photo Jelmer Groen



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Herald Snake
(*Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Olive Grass Snake
(*Psammodphis sp.*)



MILDLY VENOMOUS

Common Emerald Snake
(*Hapsidophrys smaragdina*)



HARMLESS

Ball Python
(*Python regius*) - Photo Luke Kemp



HARMLESS

Common Bush Snake
(*Philothamnus irregularis*)



HARMLESS

African House Snake
(*Boaedon sp.*)



HARMLESS

Variegated Marsh Snake
(*Natriciteres variegata*) - Photo Bill Branch

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 Travel Doctor-approved service provider. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).

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