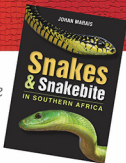




SNAKEBITE PROFILE

NATAL BLACK SNAKE

Macrelaps microlepidotus



See pages 88-89
– *Snakes and Snakebite
in Southern Africa*
(2024).

Risk Of Bites

This is a slow-moving snake that lives underground. It may surface on warm overcast days or be found under logs and rocks or during excavations.

Most Bites

The Natal Black Snake is reluctant to bite and few bites have been recorded.

Symptoms & Venom

Very little is known about the venom of this snake. Its venom appears to be cytotoxic, causing pain and mild swelling.

First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient and elevate the affected limb. Remove tight clothing and jewelry. Transport the victim to the nearest hospital or doctor for pain management. Avoid all other first aid remedies including bandages.

Medical Treatment

There is no effective antivenom that works for the bite of this snake and victims are treated symptomatically. It appears to be a relatively mild bite with minor symptoms.

