

# SNAKEBITE PROFILE

## SPECKLED SHIELD-NOSE SNAKE

*Aspidelaps scutatus scutatus*



### Risk of Bites

Bites to humans are not common. This snake puts up a big show when cornered and is quick to hiss and strike repeatedly.



### Most Bites

Bites occur mostly at night, when the snake is trodden on, or accidentally cornered. There is one recorded death of a child.

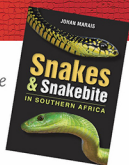


### Symptoms & Venom

The venom of this snake is both cytotoxic and neurotoxic, resulting in local swelling and possibly necrosis. Paralyzed facial muscles, drooping eyelids (ptosis) and blurred vision have been recorded. Victims may experience breathing issues in severe bites.

See pages 74-75

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



### First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient and elevate the affected limb. Promptly transport the victim to the nearest hospital that has emergency facilities. Avoid all other first aid remedies including bandages.



### Medical Treatment

There is no antivenom for bites from this snake and doctors will treat the bite symptomatically.

