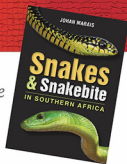




Snakebite Profile

Southern Vine Snake

Thelotornis capensis



Risk Of Bites

This snake lives in trees and shrubs and interactions with humans are not common. It is a placid snake that only bites when provoked or handled. Bites are very rare in South Africa.



Most Bites

There are very few documented bites from this snake in southern Africa, except for incidents where snake keepers are bitten by captive snakes, or by other people handling this snake.



Symptoms & Venom

The venom is potently haemotoxic, like that of the Boomslang. Symptoms include bleeding from the nose, mucous membranes and bite site. This may eventually lead to internal bleeding.



First Aid

Immobilise and reassure the patient. 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

Polyvalent and Monovalent antivenom do not offer cross coverage for Vine Snake bites and should not be administered. Bites are treated symptomatically with blood transfers and platelets, but this may not be effective in severe bites. To date we do not have any documented fatalities in South Africa, however a few fatal bites have been recorded further north in Africa.

