

# PUFF ADDER - LIBULULU

VERY DANGEROUS



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IDENTIFICATION FEATURES	IMMEDIATE SYMPTOMS	FIRST-AID
<p>Puff adders are mainly active at night and most bites occur after dark. However, bites do sometimes occur during the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A short, fat snake averaging 0.9m – 1.2m.</li><li>• The head is triangular in shape.</li><li>• The colour can vary from light to dark brown.</li><li>• The scales are rough to the touch.</li><li>• There are distinctive yellow or cream V shapes (chevrons) down the back.</li><li>• The stomach scales (ventral part) are light cream.</li><li>• The snake will hiss loudly when confronted or disturbed.</li><li>• Just before it strikes it will make an S shape and it may look as if the snake “jumps” when it strikes.</li></ul>	<p>The venom is highly Cytotoxic and immediate medical attention is required.</p> <p><i>The following symptoms may be apparent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be immediate burning sensation at the bite site.</li><li>• There will be a throbbing pain at the bite site.</li><li>• Swelling will start within minutes, and will move up the bitten limb.</li><li>• The swelling will continue, up the entire bitten limb.</li><li>• The swelling will feel hot to the touch.</li></ul> <p>There will probably be bleeding or liquid oozing from the bite site.</p>	<p>A bite from this snake is very painful but not life threatening if treated correctly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remember to remain calm.</li><li>• Gently wash the affected area with water, <b>nothing</b> else.</li><li>• Remove rings, jewelry and other restrictive clothing or shoes.</li><li>• Draw a ring around the bite site.</li><li>• Write the time the bite occurred next to the bite site.</li><li>• Elevate (lift) the affected limb.</li><li>• Keep the limb elevated until you have reached the medical facility.</li></ul> <p><b>DO NOT</b>, under any circumstances, tourniquet(tie a band, belt or rope) or apply a pressure bandage to the affected limb.</p>

