

RINKHALS - PHEMPHETFWANE

VERY DANGEROUS



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IDENTIFICATION FEATURES	IMMEDIATE SYMPTOMS	FIRST-AID
<p>This snake is only found in the cooler parts of Swaziland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a small to medium sized snake, usually 0.9m to 1.2m.• The colour is dark grey to black.• It may have bands down the entire length of the snake.• It has 1 to 3 white bands on the throat.• If threatened it may act as if it is dead.• When threatened, it will rear up and spread a hood.• It will spray venom from a reared up position.	<p>The venom is both Cytotoxic and Neurotoxic.</p> <p><i>The following symptoms may be apparent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal to Mild swelling in most cases.• Pain can be Minimal to Acute.• The victim may have difficulty in focusing his/her eyes.• The arms and legs may become weak.• Speech may be slurred.• There victim may feel nauseous and may vomit.• There may become difficult to swallow.• Increased salivation.• Severe thirst.• The chest may feel tight and the victim may have difficulty to breath.• There will be little or no blood at the bite site.	<p>The symptoms are usually not very severe but there have been isolated cases where the victim has collapsed within a few minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember to remain calm.• Gently wash the bite site with water, noting else.• Remove rings, jewelry and other restrictive clothing or shoes.• Draw a ring around the bite site.• Write the time the bite occurred next to the bite site.• Keep the affected limb below the height of the heart.• Get to a medical facility.

