

BOOMSLANG - INDLONDLO

VERY DANGEROUS



Often confused for a Vine snake – a deadly mistake if treated incorrectly.

VERY DANGEROUS

IDENTIFICATION FEATURES	IMMEDIATE SYMPTOMS	FIRST-AID
<p>This snake is often mistaken for a Green Mamba (not found in Swaziland).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A long slender snake growing up to 1.8m in length.• The males are bright green with light green bellies.• The females are light brown with light cream or white bellies.• It has a large blunt head.• It has very large eyes.• It is not an aggressive snake and very seldom bites.• Juveniles are brown above, and have cream coloured bellies. The throat may be bright yellow. The most distinctive feature is a very large bright green eye.	<p>The venom is Haemotoxic. Monovalent (Polyvalent antivenom is ineffective) antivenom is very effective given many hours or even days after the bite. This antivenom is NOT readily available.</p> <p><i>The following symptoms may be apparent:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptoms will not be obvious for several hours.• The venom causes internal bleeding.• There will be bleeding at the bite site.• Bleeding from the nose, gums, eyes and ears.• Slight swelling.• Minimal to mild pain.• The victim will feel lethargic (tired).• Mental confusion.• Nausea and Vomiting• Hot and Cold fever.• Increased sweating.	<p>Although bites are rare, the victim will need to be hospitalized for at least 48 hours as the symptoms only appear after several hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remember to remain calm.• Gently wash the bite site with water, nothing 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.• Immobilize the affected limb with a splint and apply a broad bandage from the bite site up the limb (towards the heart). Please note that both these conditions need to be met in order for this method to be effective.



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