


VINE SNAKE - LUNUNKHU

VERY DANGEROUS



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IDENTIFICATION FEATURES	IMMEDIATE SYMPTOMS	FIRST-AID
<p>The vine snake is not aggressive and very seldom bites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A very slender snake with a long, thin tail.• The colour is various shades of grey and brown, resembling a twig.• The top of the head can be green with black or brown spots.• The eye has a horizontal pupil and is keyhole• When threatened, it will inflate its neck (see picture). 	<p>The venom is Haemotoxic.</p> <p>There is NO antivenom to treat a bite of this snake.</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 as well as old• 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 very rare, the victim will need to be hospitalized for at least 48 hours as the symptoms only appear after several hours. Treatment will have to be symptomatic.</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.• Immobilize the affected limb with a splint and apply a broad pressure 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.