



**ONLINE**

# **BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO SNAKE IDENTIFICATION**

**- SOUTHERN AFRICA -**

Introducing the first ever online course for Snake Identification for southern African Snakes.

There are 173 species and subspecies of snakes in southern Africa. Some of these snakes are rare or uncommonly encountered as they may have restricted distributions or are not abundant. Other species may be wide-ranging and are commonly encountered.

This comprehensive introductory course will examine both the basic and common groups of snakes in Southern Africa.

The course is completed online and on passing the course, successful delegates receive a digital certificate.

Once signed up for the course, delegates have lifetime access to the course content and are able to complete the course in their own time. (The only time constraints in this course are on the quizzes after each module, which need to be completed in the allotted time, once started.)

## Beginners' Guide to Snake Identification (Southern African Snakes)

The course comprises of 5 modules: harmless snakes, non-venomous snakes with a painful bite, mildly venomous snakes, venomous snakes and highly venomous snakes.

Each module is broken down into various sections, i.e. The harmless snake module section covers: Thread and Blind snakes, Shovel-snouts, Slug-eaters and Egg-eaters, Wolf Snakes, File Snakes, Green Snakes, Water Snakes, House and Rock Snakes.

The non-venomous snakes with a painful bite section covers mole snakes and pythons.

Mildly venomous snakes include: Centipede-eaters, and Burrowing snakes, Tiger snakes, Heralds and Tree Snakes, Sand and Grass Snakes, Skaapstekers, Reed Snakes, Bark Snakes, Quill-snouted Snakes and Beaked Snakes.

The venomous species section covers: Harlequin snakes, Purple-glossed and Natal Black Snakes, Garter Snakes, Stiletto Snakes, Night Adders, Dwarf Adders.

And the highly venomous section covers: Puff Adders and Gaboon Adders, Twig Snakes and Boomslang, Sea Snakes, Coral and Shield-nosed Snakes, Rinkhals, Cobras, Mambas.

At the end of each module is a multiple-choice test, which needs to be completed before the delegate can move on with the next section.

### Introduction to Harmless Species



There are 70 species of snakes in southern Africa that are harmless and have no venom.

### Harlequin Snakes



A - The eastern or grassland form of the Spotted Harlequin Snake. B - the western form of the Spotted Harlequin Snake.

There are two species of Harlequin Snakes in Southern Africa.

These are beautifully marked snakes with orange, red, yellow, black, and white patterns or stripes. They are small snakes seldom exceeding 50 cm. These snakes live underground and feed on other snakes and legless lizards. They have small heads with small black eyes.

They are mildly venomous, but if allowed to chew the venom has been recorded to produce some notable symptoms including discolouration, swelling and hemorrhaging under the skin.

### Cobras



Standard cobras: A - Spouty Cobra, B - Cape Cobra, C - Archer's Cobra, D - Forest Cobra

**COURSE PRICE R100.00**

**FGASA Members receive free access to this online course.**

All they need to do is to email Ashley ([admin@asiorg.co.za](mailto:admin@asiorg.co.za)) with the following: name, surname, identity number, email address and FGASA membership number.