

# COMMON SCORPIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Has caused human fatalities

**DANGEROUS**

May be life threatening in small children and animals

**HARMLESS**

Painful sting, but does not require antivenom



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Rough Thicktail - light form  
(*Parabuthus granulatus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Rough Thicktail - dark form  
(*Parabuthus granulatus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Transvaal Thicktail  
(*Parabuthus transvaalicus*)



**DANGEROUS**

Cape Thicktail  
(*Parabuthus capensis*)



**DANGEROUS**

Drab Thicktail  
(*Parabuthus planicauda*)



**DANGEROUS**

Eastern Nomad  
(*Hottentotta trilineatus*)



**HARMLESS**

Common Lesser-Thicktail  
(*Uroplectes carinatus*)



**HARMLESS**

Highveld Lesser-Thicktail  
(*Uroplectes triangulifer triangulifer*)



**HARMLESS**

Striped Lesser-Thicktail  
(*Uroplectes lineatus*)



**HARMLESS**

Bark Scorpion  
(*Uroplectes vittatus*)



**HARMLESS**

Plain Pygmy-Thicktail  
(*Pseudolychas ochraceus*)



**HARMLESS**

Rough Burrower  
(*Opisthophthalmus glabrifrons*)



**HARMLESS**

Cape Burrower  
(*Opisthophthalmus capensis*)



**HARMLESS**

Kalahari Burrower  
(*Opisthophthalmus wahlbergii*)



**HARMLESS**

Karoo Burrower  
(*Opisthophthalmus karroensis*)



**HARMLESS**

Giant Rock Scorpion - male  
(*Hadogenes troglodytes*)



**HARMLESS**

Rock Scorpion - female  
(*Hadogenes longimanus*)



**HARMLESS**

Tree Creeper  
(*Opisthacanthus asper*)



**HARMLESS**

Drakensberg Creeper  
(*Opisthacanthus validus*)



**HARMLESS**

Jones's Creeper  
(*Cheloctonus jonesii*)

## NOTE

In the case of stings from harmless species, apply a topical anaesthetic cream to manage the pain.



JOHAN MARAIS is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and offers a variety of courses including Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness and Venomous Snake Handling. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) and Travel Doctor-approved service provider.

Johan Marais | African Snakebite Institute  
+27 82 494 2039 | [johan@asiorg.co.za](mailto:johan@asiorg.co.za)

[www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com](http://www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com)

## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

**STINGS FROM DANGEROUS AND VERY DANGEROUS SCORPIONS MUST BE TREATED AS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.**

- 1 Transport the victim to hospital *without delay*.
- 2 Immobilize the affected limb to slow the spread of venom.
- 3 If the victim stops breathing, apply artificial respiration or use a Bag Valve Mask.
- 4 Call the Poison Information Centre helpline for further advice: 0861 555 777.

**DO NOT**

- ... apply a tourniquet.
- ... cut and suck the wound.
- ... use ice or very hot water.
- ... give the victim alcohol.
- ... apply electric shock.
- ... inject antivenom randomly.

Antivenom (if required) must be administered by a doctor in a hospital environment.