**Brown House Snake**

As its name suggests, the Brown House Snake is often found near human settlements. Sadly, even though this snake is completely harmless, it is often killed on sight.

This snake likes to hide in building rubble, compost heaps, rock heaps and under galvanised iron sheets. You are also likely to find this snake in your garden. It plays an important ecological role in controlling rat and mouse populations. One House Snake can devour an entire family of rodents. They also eat lizards, bats, birds and frogs.

The House Snake is one of the few snakes in South Africa that is very easy to identify: it has a light stripe that runs from its nose to the back of its head. There is also a second light stripe that runs from its eye to the back end of its jaw. Sometimes light stripes run the length of its body. These snakes come in various shades of brown.

The House Snake is nonvenomous and kills its prey by holding it with its sharp teeth and strangling it. When a human catches this snake, it usually bites repeatedly, drawing a little bit of blood. However, its teeth are very small and the bite is not serious.