

WITZANDS AQUIFER NATURE RESERVE

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Amphibians are animals that are able to live both on land and in water, the most common group being frogs. On the West Coast a variety of amphibians are to be found inhabiting either the damp, wetland areas, or the seasonally moist sandy areas. Because of their shy habits and good camouflage, amphibians are often difficult to spot. Of the 27 indigenous species of amphibian recorded from the boundaries of the city, 25 are endemic to South Africa and 10 are threatened with extinction. Several are known from only a few sites. Five amphibian species are endemic to Cape Town.



Cape Sand Frog
Tomopterna delalandii



Clicking Stream Frog
Strongylopus grayii



Sand Rain Frog
Breviceps rosei

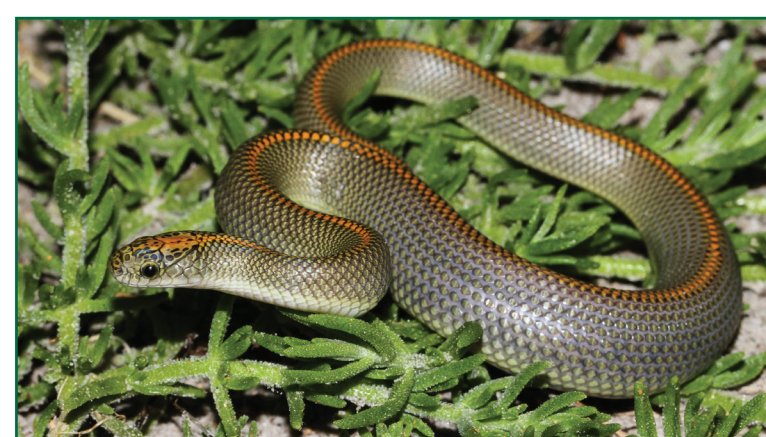


Namaqua Rain Frog
Breviceps namaquensis

Reptiles are often viewed with apprehension, but are generally shy creatures that prefer to avoid confrontation rather than seek it. It is important to be aware of the presence of snakes when walking through Dune Strandveld and to react wisely by standing still, then retreating slowly if a potentially dangerous snake is encountered. Characteristic of reptiles is their dry, horny skin, usually in the form of scales or plates. This layer helps to prevent water loss from the body, and has allowed reptiles to move onto dry land. Approximately 60 species of reptile occur within the city. Twenty nine of these are endemic to South Africa and eight are considered to be threatened with extinction. Three species that used to occur within the city are now considered to be locally extinct: the Rinkhals (*Hemachatus haemachatus*), Southern Adder (*Bitis armata*) and Geometric Tortoise (*Psammobates geometricus*). There have been recent records of both Southern Adder and Rinkhals on the edge of the city but neither can be considered as having viable populations within the city.



Angulate Tortoise
Chersina angulata



Aurora Snake
Lamprophis aurora



Boomslang
Dispholidus typus



Cape Cobra
Naja nivea



Cape Dwarf Chameleon
Bradypodion pumilum



Cape Legless Skink
Acontias meleagris



Cape Sand Snake
Psammophis leightoni



Cape Skink
Trachylepis capensis



Cross-marked Grass Snake
Psammophis crucifer



Knox's Desert Lizard
Meroles knoxii



Rhombic Egg eater
Dasypeltis scabra



Silvery Dwarf Burrowing Skink
Scelotes bipes



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CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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