

# How to identify one of the four common green snakes of Zambia

For more info:  
[www.hhiss.com](http://www.hhiss.com)

Or contact:  
[info@hhiss.com](mailto:info@hhiss.com)



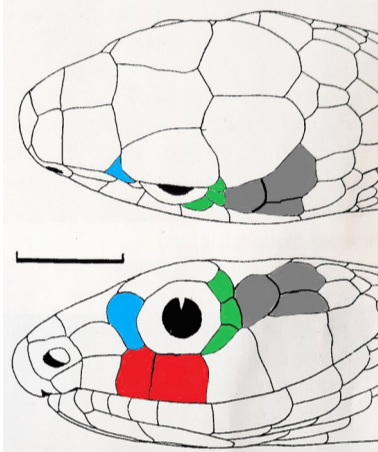
There are six green snakes in Zambia, of which four are common. These are the Northern Boomslang, the Spotted Bush Snake, the Green Water Snake and the Angolan Green Snake. This poster aims to help telling these common four apart. The Northern Boomslang is the only dangerous one. The other three snakes are harmless, non-venomous snakes. *Note: The Green Mamba doesn't occur in Zambia*

Upper labial scales: scales of the upper lip touching the eye

Pre-ocular scales: scales in front of the eye

Post ocular scales: scales behind the eye

Temporal scales: scales above the labials, behind the post-ocular scales



## Northern Boomslang ( Dispholidus typus)

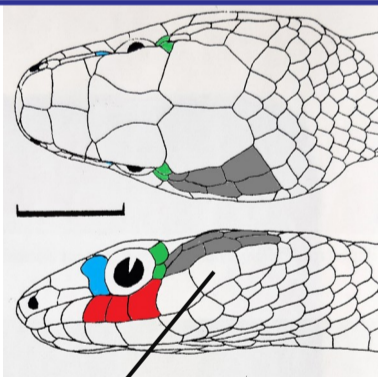
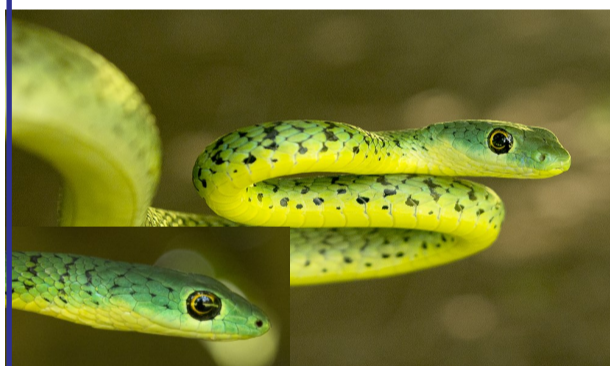
Throughout Zambia

Larger than other green snakes: 140-200 cm

2 labials touch eye Pre-oc.: 1 Post-oc.: 3 Temporals: 1+2

Short head, rounded snout, very large eye

Colour : varies. Usually males are green (with green spotting) females brown. Juveniles are brown grey with bright emerald eye.



Only one with double row of temporals

## Spotted Bush Snake (Philothamnus semivariegatus)

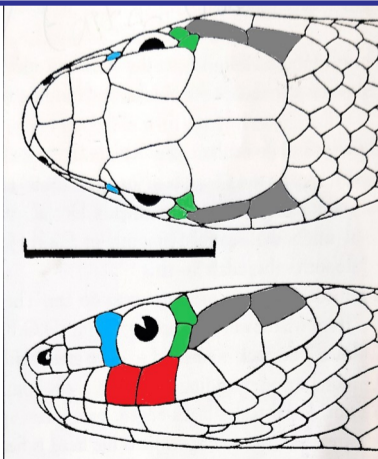
Throughout Zambia

Size: 90-110 cm

3 labials touch eye Pre-oc.: 1 Post-oc.: 2 Temporals: 2+2+2

Long fairly flat head

Colour: bright green to bluish-green towards rear of body). Usually has black spots in bar-pattern but in parts of Zambia spotless. Underside green-white to yellowish. Orange iris. Pre oculars and post oculars clearly white



## South-eastern Green Snake / Green Water Snake (Philothamnus hoplogaster)

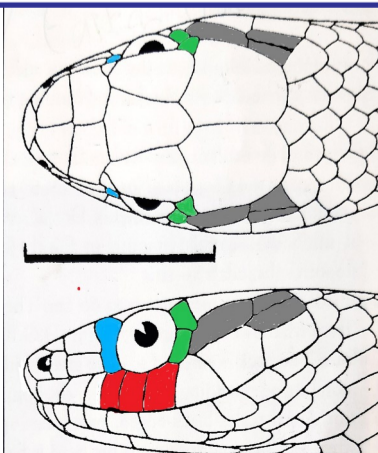
Throughout Zambia, near water

Smallest. Size: less than 60 cm

2 labials touch eye Pre-oc.: 1, Post-oc.: 2 Temporals: 1+1

Rounded snout, usually yellowish. Underside yellow

Colour: emerald to bluish green above, sometimes dull green. Belly is white to yellow. Black skin between scales (visible when stretched).



## Angola Green Snake (Philothamnus angolensis)

Throughout Zambia

Size: 80-100 cm

3 labials touch eye Pre-oc.: 1, post-oc.: 2 Temporals: 1+2

Robust rounded head, pre-ocular concave (dented inward)

Colour: Bright emerald green to olive green above with bluish-white spots. Black interstitial skin. Underside pale green to yellow