

# LOWER SILVERMINE RIVER ESTUARY - GENERAL INTEREST



**Cape Clawless Otters.** There is a small population of the otters in the Wetlands. They eat crabs, fish and other small animals. Their scats (droppings) can be seen around the Wetlands and you can see crab remains in them. They move around in the early evening and morning, and stay in their holts during the day. **Please do not let your dogs swim in the ponds as this could scare off the otters.** Their spoor can sometimes be seen on the beach.



Otter scats



**Mole Snake.** A common and harmless snake, up to 2m long. Eats rats etc.

Can be yellow to brown, grey to black.



**Rain spider egg case.** Often seen hanging in the bushes, and made with leaves and

twigs, may contain hundreds of eggs. The rain spider is harmless to man.



**Golden Orb spider.** Commonly seen. The females are much

larger than the males.



**Phragmites reed.**

An indigenous, but invasive reed. No really effective means of controlling this plant has been found.



**Typha.** Another indigenous but invasive water plant. It has long green leaves and a *bulrush* type flower. No effective means of control as the rhizomes grow down 4 generations.



**Restios** are a signature plant species of fynbos. They are particularly

beautiful and there are many species.



**Milkwood Tree.** You are not allowed to prune or cut down these without permission



**Common Moorhen.** A common resident which feeds on water plants, insects, molluscs and various insects.



**Dragonflies** are common in summer, but sometimes difficult to

identify. This one is a Common Scarlet juvenile male! They are very fast flyers.



**Common river crab** Food for a variety of animals ie otters and mongoose.



**Gabion walls** are baskets of rocks that are used to prevent erosion from flood waters. The wire is

plastic coated to prevent rusting. Please do not to walk on them as this causes the plastic to break and wires to rust causing holes.



**Egg eating snake.** Identified by the V shape on it's head. It is a harmless snake, eating the eggs of birds etc.

