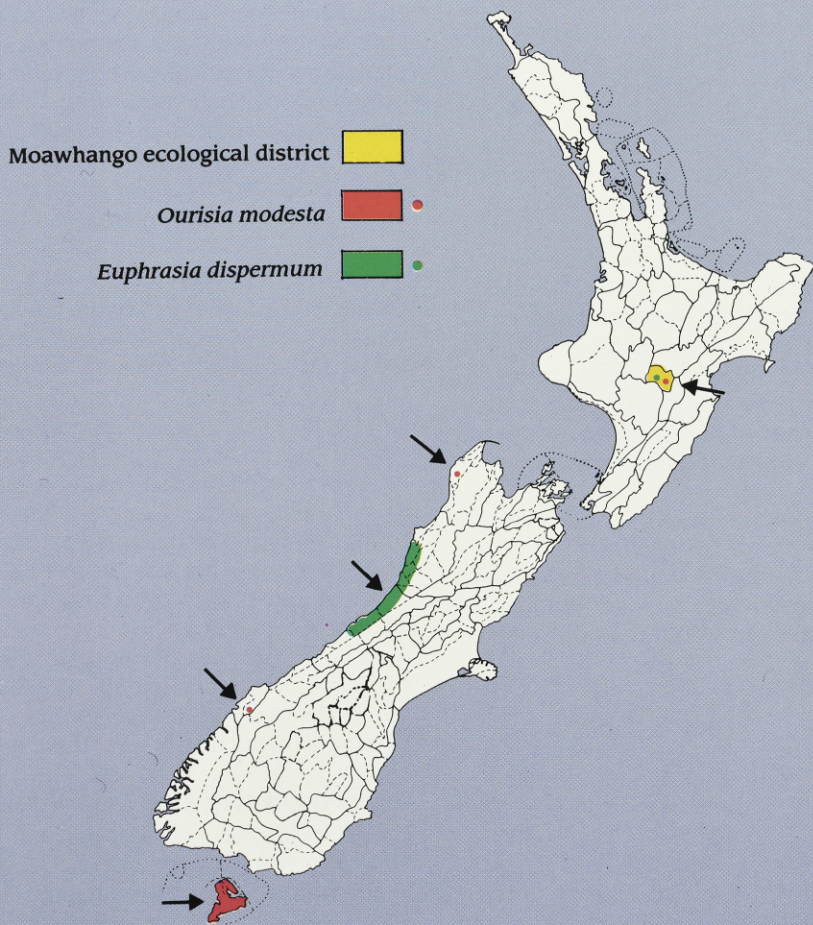




*Inset: The anti-browse divaricating strategy of the Central North Island endemic *Pittosporum turneri* is well illustrated by these plants near Te Rakaunuiakura. Photo: Geoff Rogers.*



*Left: New Zealand's 268 ecological districts. The Moawhango district, surrounded by Central North Island mountains, has strong landscape and plant affinities with parts of the South Island. Does the distribution of *Ourisia modesta* and *Euphrasia disperma* provide an insight to New Zealand geological history? Were areas which are today widely separated, once neighbours?*

Sanctuary preserve the region's natural values. This deficiency must be redressed. Some may say that the Southwest Kaimanawa foothills are protected by default as the Waiouru Military Reserve. Yet the public has no statutorily guaranteed input into planning or the custodial land use of this country by the Defence Department.

The P. N. A. programme uses numerous natural value categories in evaluating preservation priorities for a district. The strength of biogeography lies in highlighting habitats and landscapes which have incalculable biological importance. Habitats supporting outlying populations of species that may be far removed from the main population body can be targeted for protection. The habitats of endemic biota and local races or variants of species are clearly also worthy of protection. Such outliers are of equal conservation importance as the main population pattern. They exist as important ingredients, however rare, in producing the unique natural character of each