



What strange geological processes have selectively preserved habitats for a host of plants in the Moawhango district of the central North Island? This area is the only North Island home of these plants, which are also found in the South Island. The breathtaking sweep of Moawhango landscapes, seldom appreciated by North Islanders, are reminiscent of Central Otago landscapes, with undulating marine sediment plateaux supporting red tussock land studded with pockets of kaikawaka forest that survived Polynesian burning. Mt Ruapehu is to the left, Mt Ngauruhoe to the right. An article on this fascinating area is on page 24 of this issue.

*Photo: Quentin Christle, Soil Bureau DSIR*

*Inset:* This damp habitat *Carex berggrenii* occurs locally in the South Island and in the distant upper reaches of the Moawhango plateaux. *Photo: Geoff Rogers.*