

Climate. The area excluding the Ranges rises to approximately 2,000 feet above sea level, and the prevailing westerly winds largely influence the cool super-humid climate. A large diurnal variation occurs, particularly in the more elevated regions, and the area is well watered with the maximum precipitation occurring in winter (Garnier 1958, p. 128). The country near Mt Ruapehu has a rainfall of 50–60 inches and the other areas 35–50 inches.

The climatic data for Karioi (2,125ft) are representative of the area. The degree of variation occurring in other places is mainly associated with altitude. The data for Wanganui, a coastal city, indicate the range of variation within the study area.

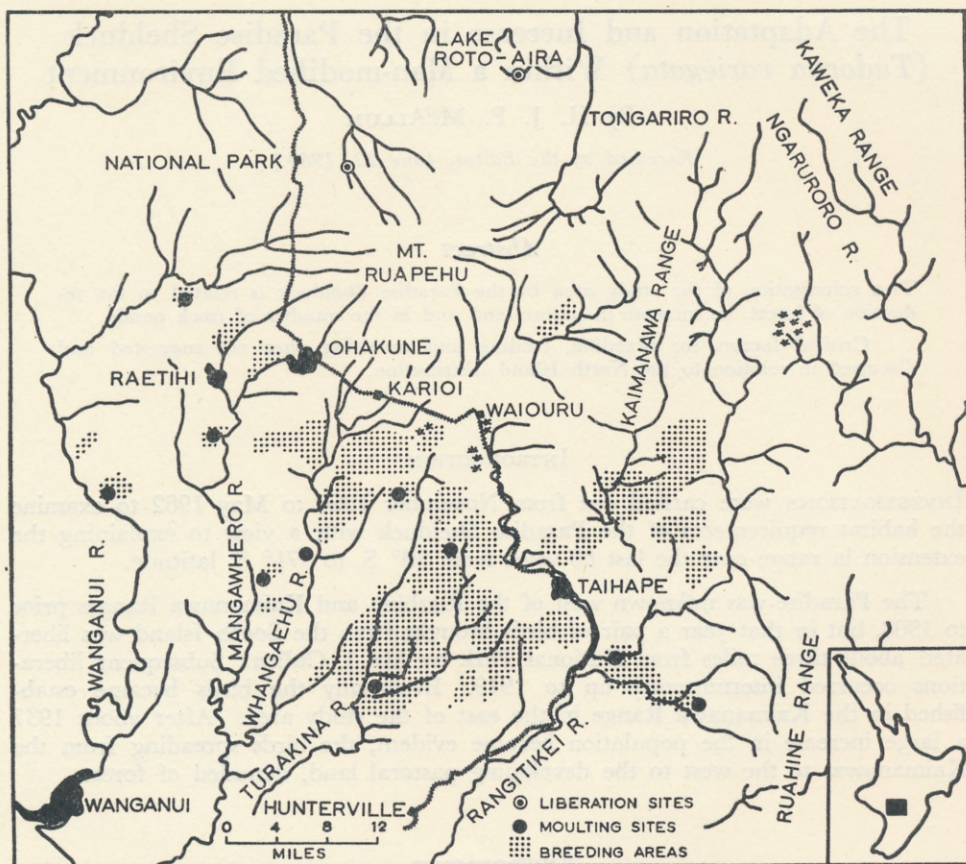


FIG. 1.—The study area on the southern edge of the central North Island plateau.

TABLE I.—CLIMATIC DATA

	Karioi (1927–1960)	Wanganui (1937–1960)
Average daily maximum	59° F.	63° F.
Average monthly maximum	80° F.	83° F.
Extreme maximum	86° F.	88° F.
Average daily minimum	39° F.	49° F.
Average monthly minimum	19° F.	30° F.
Extreme minimum	14° F.	29° F.
Average annual rainfall	48 inches	34 inches

(By courtesy of the N.Z. Meteorological Service.)