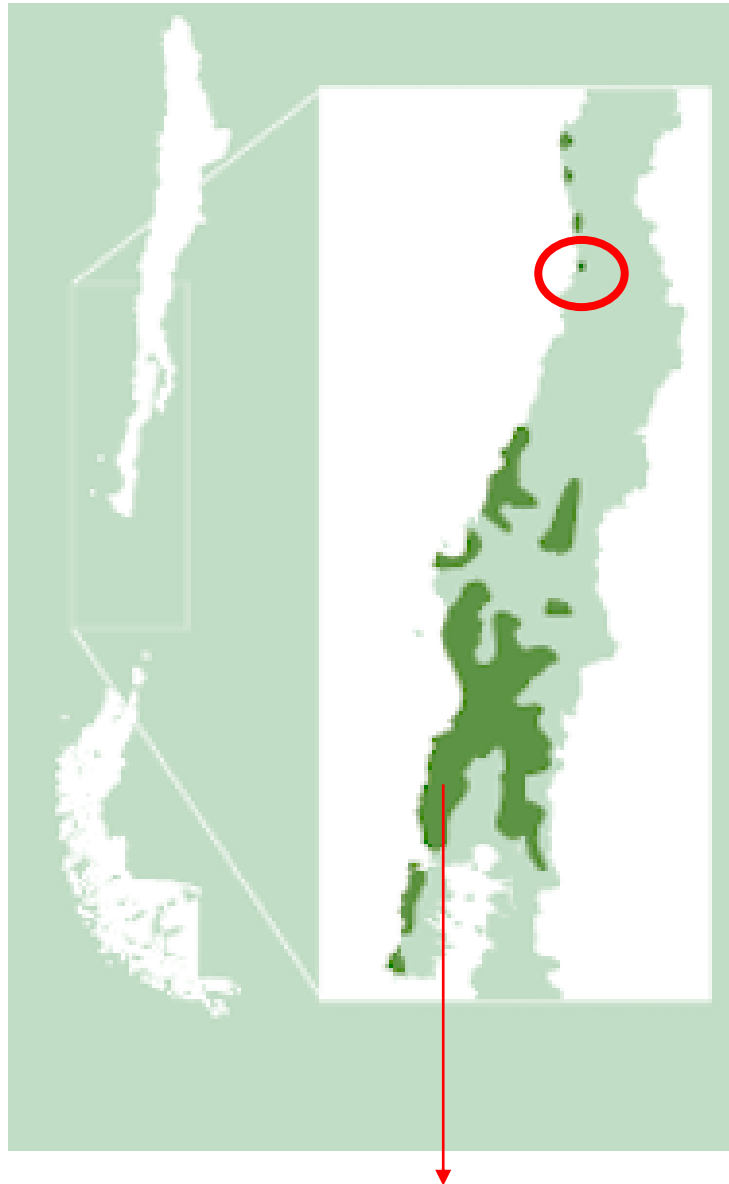


## Ecotones as biological outcomes: spatial variation in tree water use across a boundary of a fog forest.

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# Chile



MAP >1800-2000 mm



Study site is dominated by an endemic tree species, *Aextoxicon punctatum*, which dominates in southern Chile, but has a wide latitudinal distribution

## *Aextoxicon* fog-forest in central Chile

MAP  $254 \pm 157$ mm



## Take-home messages

Environmental conditions change sharply from the ecotone to the forest interior.

Tree water use is consistently spatially structured, and edge–interior differences become stronger when transpiration is high.

Greater water use at the edge is associated with drier local soil conditions, suggesting a physiological feedback that may help reinforce the ecotone.