

**MICROBIOLOGICAL AND SOIL FERTILITY
PROBLEMS IN DIVERSIFYING MID COUNTRY
MARGINAL TEA LANDS INTO GRASS/LEGUME
PASTURES**

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Preliminary studies were made on nutrient deficiencies and legume establishment in marginal Mid Country tea lands. *Macropodium atropurpureum* (Siratro) was used as the test

plant. Nutrient deficiencies were investigated in pot culture using the omission technique. Severe deficiencies of phosphorus, sulphur and magnesium and a growth response to liming were observed.

The soil had a low count of rhizobia (37,000/g of soil) but inoculation and seed pelleting did not improve nodulation.