CLAIMS:

1. Use of a toe or finger nail-, claw-, hoof- or horn- penetrating plant defensin having the amino acid sequence: Xaa Lys Val Cys Thr Lys Pro Ser Lys Phe Phe Lys Gly Leu Cys Gly Xaa Asp Xaa Xaa Cys Thr Xaa Ala Cys Xaa Lys Glu Gly Leu Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Cys Gln Xaa Lys Gly Phe Xaa Asn Xaa Val Cys Val Cys Arg Lys Xaa Cys (SEQ ID NO:24); wherein Xaa at position 1 is an alanine or no residue and Xaa at positions 17, 19, 20, 22, 26, 31, 32, 34, 37, 41, 43 and 50 is any amino acid, in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting infection of a fungal pathogen on or in a toe or finger nail, claw, hoof or a horn on a subject.

2. The use of Claim 1 wherein the infection is associated with onychomycosis or a related condition.

3. The use of Claim 1 wherein the defensin comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.

4. The use of Claim 3 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3.

5. The use of Claim 3 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.

6. The use of Claim 1 wherein the medicament is to be used in synergistic combination with an antifungal agent.

7. The use of Claim 6 wherein the antifungal agent is a peptide of from 0.4 to 12 kD or a proteinase inhibitor.

8. The use of Claim 6 wherein the antifungal agent is a chemical fungicide selected

from terbinafine, itraconazole, fluconazole, ciclopirox, clotrimazole, amorolfine and butenafine.

9. The use of Claim 1 wherein the fungal pathogen is selected from the group consisting of a dermatophyte, *Candida* species and a non-dermatophyte.

10. The use of Claim 9 wherein the dermatophyte is a *Trichophyton* species selected from the group consisting of *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Trichophyton interdigitale*, *Trichophyton violaceum*, *Trichophyton tonsurans*, *Trichophyton soudanense* and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*; or is *Microsporum fulvum*, *Epidermophyton floccosum* or *Microsporum gypseum*.

11. The use of Claim 9 wherein the non-dermatophyte is selected from the group consisting of *Neoscytalidium*, *Scopulariopsis, Acremonium, and Scytalidium*.

12. The use of Claim 9 wherein the non-dermatophyte is *Neoscytalidium* or *Scopulariopsis*.

13. Use of a topical formulation or cell or plant extract comprising a plant defensin having the amino acid sequence: Xaa Lys Val Cys Thr Lys Pro Ser Lys Phe Phe Lys Gly Leu Cys Gly Xaa Asp Xaa Xaa Cys Thr Xaa Ala Cys Xaa Lys Glu Gly Leu Xaa Xaa Gly Xaa Cys Gln Xaa Lys Gly Phe Xaa Asn Xaa Val Cys Val Cys Arg Lys Xaa Cys (SEQ ID NO:24); wherein Xaa at position 1 is an alanine or no residue and Xaa at positions 17, 19, 20, 22, 26, 31, 32, 34, 37, 41, 43 and 50 is any amino acid which penetrates a toe or finger nail, claw, hoof or horn and one or more pharmaceutically or veterinary acceptable carriers, diluents and/or excipients in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of onychomycosis or a related condition in a human or animal subject.

14. The use of Claim 13 wherein the formulation is a paint, spray, drop, cream or lotion.

15. The use of Claim 13 or 14 wherein the defensin comprises an amino acid sequence

selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.

16. The use of Claim 15 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3.

17. The use of Claim 15 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.