Claims

1. Use of a chelating agent and an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism to inhibit the growth of and/or kill a plant pathogenic microorganism on a plant.

2. Use of a chelating agent to increase the activity of an antimicrobial that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism.

3. A use according to claim 1 or claim 2 characterised in that said chelating agent and said antimicrobial are applied to a plant in need thereof.

4. A use according to claim 3 wherein said antimicrobial agent and said chelating agent are administered to said plant:

a) as part of the same composition; or

b) separately, either sequentially or simultaneously.

5. A use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the antimicrobial agent is effective against a plant pathogenic bacterium or fungus.

6. A use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a polypeptide.

7. A use according to claim 6 wherein said polypeptide comprises Blad or an active variant thereof.

8. A use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the chelating agent is a polyamino carboxylate, preferably EDTA.

9. A method of inhibiting the growth of and/or killing a plant pathogenic microorganism comprising administering to a plant in need thereof a chelating agent and an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism.

10. A method of increasing the activity of an antimicrobial that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism comprising using said antimicrobial with a chelating agent.

11. A composition comprising a chelating agent and an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism.

12. A composition according to claim 11 wherein the antimicrobial agent is effective against a plant pathogenic bacterium or fungus, preferably a fungus.

13. A composition according to claim 11 or claim 12 wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises a polypeptide.

14. A composition according to claim 13 wherein said polypeptide comprises Blad or an active variant thereof.

15. A composition according to any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein the chelating agent is a polyamino carboxylate, preferably EDTA.

16. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 11 to 15 to inhibit the growth of and/or kill a plant pathogenic microorganism on a plant.

17. A method of inhibiting the growth of and/or killing a plant pathogenic microorganism comprising administering to a plant in need thereof a composition according to any one of claims 11 to 15.

18. Use of a composition comprising an antimicrobial polypeptide comprising Blad or an active variant thereof to kill, or inhibit the growth of, a plant pathogenic bacterium on a plant.

19. A use according to claims 18 wherein said composition further comprises a chelating agent.

20. A use according to claim 18 or claim 19 wherein the bacterium is a pathogenic species from one of the following genera: *Pseudomonas*, *Erwinia* and *Streptomyces*.

21. A use according to any one of claims 18 to 20 characterised in that composition is applied to a plant in need thereof.

22. A method of killing, or inhibiting the growth of, a plant pathogenic bacterium on a plant, said method comprising administering to said plant a composition comprising an effective amount of an antimicrobial polypeptide comprising Blad or an active variant thereof.

We claim:

1. Use of a chelating agent and an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism to inhibit the growth of and/or kill a plant pathogenic microorganism on a plant, wherein the antimicrobial agent is an antimicrobial polypeptide comprising the Blad sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 or an active variant thereof which has antimicrobial activity and which comprises a sequence which has at least 70% identity to either SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO:4 which is at least 60 amino acids in length.

2. Use of a chelating agent to increase the activity of an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism, wherein the antimicrobial agent is as defined in claim 1.

3. A use according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said chelating agent and said antimicrobial agent are applied to a plant in need thereof.

4. A use according to claim 3 wherein said antimicrobial agent and said chelating agent are administered to said plant:

a) as part of the same composition; or

b) separately, either sequentially or simultaneously.

5. A use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the antimicrobial agent is effective against a plant pathogenic bacterium or fungus.

6. A use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the chelating agent is a polyamino carboxylate.

7. A use according to claim 6, wherein the polyamino carboxylate is EDTA.

8. A method of inhibiting the growth of and/or killing a plant pathogenic microorganism comprising administering to a plant in need thereof a chelating agent and an antimicrobial agent

that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism, wherein the antimicrobial agent is as defined in claim 1.

9. A method of increasing the activity of an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism comprising using said antimicrobial with a chelating agent, wherein the antimicrobial agent is as defined in claim 1.

10. A composition comprising a chelating agent and an antimicrobial agent that is effective against a plant pathogenic microorganism, wherein the antimicrobial agent is as defined in claim 1.

11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein the antimicrobial agent is effective against a plant pathogenic bacterium or fungus, preferably a fungus.

12. A composition according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the chelating agent is a polyamino carboxylate.

13. A composition according to claim 12, wherein the polyamino carboxylate is EDTA.

14. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 10 to 13 to inhibit the growth of and/or kill a plant pathogenic microorganism on a plant.

15. A method of inhibiting the growth of and/or killing a plant pathogenic microorganism comprising administering to a plant in need thereof a composition according to any one of claims 10 to 13.

16. Use of a composition comprising an antimicrobial agent as defined in claim 1 to kill, or inhibit the growth of, a plant pathogenic bacterium on a plant.

17. A use according to claim 16 wherein said composition further comprises a chelating agent.

18. A use according to claim 16 or claim 17 wherein the bacterium is a pathogenic species from one of the following genera: *Pseudomonas*, *Erwinia* and *Streptomyces.*

19. A use according to any one of claims 16 to 18 wherein the composition is applied to a plant in need thereof.

20. A method of killing, or inhibiting the growth of, a plant pathogenic bacterium on a plant, said method comprising administering to said plant a composition comprising an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent as defined in claim 1.

21. A use according to claim 1 or 16, wherein the plant is sugar beet, sugar cane, maize, barley, wheat, sorghum, millet, rice, oats, rye, beans, peas or lentils.

22. A use according to any one of claims 1, 2, 14 or 16, substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

23. A method according to any one of claims 8, 9, 15 or 20, substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

24. A composition according to claim 10, substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.