Claims

1. Use of a ~~B~~bacterium belonging to Bacillus species wherein the bacterium is isolated *Bacillus subtilis* ssp. *shriramensis* having the accession number MTCC-5674, a pure culture of the bacterium, or a composition comprising the bacterium in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of microbial or fungal infections, ~~and~~ wherein the bacterium or the composition exhibits antifungal activity against 1) the plant microbes causing disease selected from a group consisting of, fusarium wilt, sheath blight, sheath rot, anthracnose, turcicum blight and charcoal rot in plants and 2) human pathogens selected from a group consisting of *Penicillium* ssp. , *Aspergillus flavus, Aspergillus niger and Aspergillus nidulans* and plant growth promoting activity and wherein the medicament is for inhibiting the growth of human pathogens selected from a group consisting of *Penicillium* ssp., *Aspergillus flavus and Aspergillus niger*.

2. A bacterium belonging to Bacillus species wherein the bacterium is isolated *Bacillus subtilis* ssp. *shriramensis* having the accession number MTCC-5674, a pure culture of the bacterium, or a composition comprising the bacterium, whenever used for the preparation of an antifungal and plant growth promotion composition for inhibiting the growth of plant microbes causing disease, selected from a group consisting of, fusarium wilt, sheath blight, sheath rot, anthracnose, turcicum blight and charcoal rot in plants, wherein the bacterium or the composition exhibits antifungal activity against 1) the plant microbes causing disease selected from a group consisting of, fusarium wilt, sheath blight, sheath rot, anthracnose, turcicum blight and charcoal rot in plants and 2) human pathogens selected from a group consisting of *Penicillium* ssp. , *Aspergillus flavus, Aspergillus niger and Aspergillus nidulans* and plant growth promoting activity.

~~2. A pure culture of the bacterium as claimed in claim 1.~~

~~3 A composition comprising the bacterium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition exhibits antifungal activity against 1) the plant microbes causing disease selected from a group consisting of fusarium wilt, sheath blight, sheath rot, anthracnose, turcicum blight and charcoal rot in plants and 2) human pathogens selected from a group consisting of *Penicillium* ssp. , *Aspergillus flavus , Aspergillus niger and Aspergillus nidulans ;* and b) plant growth promoting activity.~~

43. The use as claimed in claim 1, or the composition when used as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition comprises 5x10$_5$ cfu/ml to 5xl0$_7$ cfu/ml of the bacterium.

54. The use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 3, or the composition when used as claimed in claim 3 2 or claim 43, further comprising one or more antimicrobial and/or antifungal and plant growth promoting agents.

65. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1, 3 or 4 , or the composition when used as claimed in any one of claims 3 2 to 54, further comprising an agriculturally acceptable carrier.

6. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the microbial or fungal infections are skin or lung infections.

8. The bacterium as claimed in claim 1 or the composition as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 6, whenever used for the preparation of an antifungal and plant growth promotion composition for inhibiting the growth of plant microbes causing disease, selected from a group consisting of, fusarium wilt, sheath blight, sheath rot, anthracnose, turcicum blight and charcoal rot in plants, .