CLAIMS:

1. Use of a toe or finger nail-, claw-, hoof- or horn- or keratin-comprising material 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 or keratin-comprising material or follicle for the keratin-comprising material 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 2 wherein the related condition is tinea or infection of cuticle tissue surrounding the toe or finger nail, claw, hoof or horn.

4. The use of Claim 1 wherein the keratin-comprising material is hair, fur or skin.

5. 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.

6. The use of Claim 5 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3.

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

8. The use of Claim 1 wherein the medicament is to be used in synergistic combination

with an antifungal agent.

9. The use of Claim 8 wherein the antifungal agent is a peptide of from about 0.4 to about 12 kD or a proteinase inhibitor.

10. The use of Claim 8 wherein the antifungal agent is a chemical fungicide selected from terbinafine, intraconazole, fluconazole, ciclopirox, clotrimazole, amorolfine and butenafine.

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

12. The use of Claim 11 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*.

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

14. The use of Claim 11 wherein the non-dermatophyte is *Neoscytalidium* or *Scopulariopsis*.

15. 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 or keratin-comprising method and one or more pharmaceutically or veterinary acceptable carriers, diluents and/or excipients for use in treating onychomycosis or a related condition.

16. The formulation or cell or plant extract of Claim 15 wherein the related condition is tinea.

17. The formulation or cell or plant extract of Claim 15 wherein the keratin-comprising material is hair, fur or skin.

18. The formulation or cell or plant extract of Claim 15 or 16 or 17 wherein the formulation is a body or hair wash or paint, spray, drops, cream or lotion applicator.

19. The formulation or cell or plant extract of any one of Claims 15 to 18 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.

20. The formulation or cell or plant extract of Claim 19 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:3.

21. The formulation or cell or plant extract of Claim 19 wherein the defensin is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.

22. Use of a formulation or cell or plant extract of any one of Claims 15 to 21 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of onychomycosis or a related condition in a human or animal subject.

23. Use of Claim 15 in a manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of onychomycosis or a related condition in a human or animal subject wherein the keratin-comprising material is hair, fur or skin.