CLAIMS

1. A cyclic peptide, or variant thereof, comprising amino acids according to the formula I:

$$((X)_l(Y)_m)_n \qquad (I)$$

wherein l and m are integers from 0 to 10 such that both l and m are not 0, n is an integer from 1 to 10,

X and Y, which may be the same or different, are an amino acid selected from the group consisting of cationic amino acids, for use as a medicament.

2. A peptide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the peptide comprises from 2 to 50 amino acids.

3. A peptide as claimed in claim 2 wherein the peptide comprises from 3 to 15 amino acids.

4. A peptide as claimed in claim 3 wherein the peptide comprises 5 to 13 amino acids.

5. A peptide as claimed in any preceding claim wherein X and/or Y are arginine, lysine or ornithine.

6. A peptide as claimed in any claim 5 wherein X and Y are the same and are arginine or lysine.

7. A peptide as claimed in claim 6 wherein X and Y are the same and are arginine.

8. A peptide as claimed in any preceding claim wherein X and/or Y are D-amino acids.

9. A peptide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein X and/or Y are L-amino acids.

10. A peptide as claimed in any preceding claim wherein l and m are an integer between 0 and 7 and n is an integer between 1 and 10.

11. A peptide as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the peptide is R-R-R-R-R-R-R

12. A process for the preparation of a peptide as claimed in any preceding claim the process comprising cyclising a peptide of formula (I) by reaction of the peptide with a coupling agent capable of forming a peptide bond between the two terminal amino acid residues of the peptide.

13. A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein the coupling agent is HATU - O-(7-Azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluroniumhexafluorophosphate.

14. A cyclised peptide obtainable by the process of claim 12 or 13.

15. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a peptide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

16. Use of a cyclic peptide, or variant thereof, comprising amino acids according to the formula I:

$$((X)_l(Y)_m)_n \qquad (I)$$

wherein l and m are integers from 0 to 10 such that both l and m are not 0, n is an integer from 1 to 10, X and Y, which may be the same or different, are an amino acid selected from the group consisting of cationic amino acids, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a microbial infection.

17. Use as claimed in claim 16 wherein the infection is a fungal infection.

18. Use as claimed in claim 17 wherein the fungal infection is caused by a fungal pathogen derived from a fungus of the genus *Candida* spp., *Epidermophyton* spp., *Exophiala* spp., *Microsporum* spp., *Trichophyton* spp., *Tinea* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., *Blastomyces* spp., *Blastoschizomyces* spp., *Coccidioides* spp., *Cryptococcus* spp., *Histoplasma* spp., *Paracoccidiomyces* spp., *Sporotrix* spp., *Absidia* spp., *Cladophialophora* spp., *Fonsecaea* spp., *Phialophora* spp., *Lacazia* spp., *Arthrographis* spp., *Acremonium* spp., *Actinomadura* spp., *Apophysomyces* spp., *Emmonsia* spp., *Basidiobolus* spp., *Beauveria* spp., *Chrysosporium* spp., *Conidiobolus* spp., *Cunninghamella* spp., *Fusarium* spp., *Geotrichum* spp., *Graphium* spp., *Leptosphaeria* spp., *Malassezia* spp., *Mucor* spp., *Neotestudina* spp., *Nocardiopsis* spp., *Paecilomyces* spp., *Phoma* spp., *Piedraia* spp., *Pneumocystis* spp., *Pseudallescheria* spp., *Pyrenochaeta* spp., *Rhizomucor* spp., *Rhizopus* spp., *Rhodotorula* spp., *Saccharomyces* spp., *Scedosporium* spp., *Scopulariopsis* spp., *Sporobolomyces* spp., *Syncephalastrum* spp., *Trichoderma* spp., *Trichosporon* spp., *Ulocladium* spp., *Ustilago* spp., *Verticillium* spp., *Wangiella* spp.

19. Use as claimed in claim 17 wherein the fungal infection is a dermatophyte infection.

20. Use as claimed in claim 19 wherein the dermatophyte infection is a Tinea infection.

21. Use as claimed in claim 19 wherein the dermatophyte infection is caused by a dermatophyte of the genera Trichophyton, Epidermophyton or Microsporum.

22. Use as claimed in claim 21 wherein the dermatophyte is *Trichophyton* spp.

23. Use as claimed in claim 22 wherein the dermatophyte is *Trichophyton interdigitale*.

24. Use as claimed in claim 22 wherein the dermatophyte is *Trichophyton rubrum*.

25. Use as claimed in any of claims 17 to 24 wherein the fungal infection is onychomycosis.

26. Use of a cyclic peptide, or variant thereof, comprising amino acids according to the formula I:

$$((X)_l(Y)_m)_n \qquad (I)$$

wherein l and m are integers from 0 to 10 such that both l and m are not 0, n is an integer from 1 to 10, X and Y, which may be the same or different, are an amino acid selected from the group consisting of cationic amino acids, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a wound.

27. A method of treating or preventing a microbial infection in a subject the method comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a cyclic peptide, or variant thereof, comprising amino acids according to the formula I:

$$((X)_l(Y)_m)_n \qquad (I)$$

wherein l and m are integers from 0 to 10 such that both l and m are not 0, n is an integer from 1 to 10, X and Y, which may be the same or different, are an amino acid selected from the group consisting of cationic amino acids.

28. A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the microbial infection is a fungal infection.

29. A method as claimed in claim 27 or 28 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of the peptide or peptide variant is administered topically.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of the peptide or peptide variant is administered topically to the skin or nails of the subject.

CLAIMS

1. Use of a cyclic peptide comprising 3 to 50 amino acids according to the formula II:

$$((X)_l(Y)_m)_n \qquad (II)$$

wherein l and m are integers from 0 to 10 such that both l and m are not 0, n is an integer from 1 to 10, X and Y are the same and are arginine, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a fungal infection.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fungal infection is a dermatophyte infection.

3. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein the peptide comprises from 3 to 15 amino acids.

4. The use as claimed in claim 3 wherein the peptide comprises 3 to 7 amino acids.

5. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the peptide comprises from 5 to 13 amino acids.

6. The use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein X and/or Y are D-amino acids.

7. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein X and/or Y are L-amino acids.

8. The use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein l and m are an integer between 0 and 7 and n is an integer between 1 and 10.

9. The use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the peptide is R-R-R-R-R-R-R.

10. The use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the dermatophyte infection is a Tinea infection.

11. The use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the dermatophyte infection is caused by a dermatophyte of the genera Trichophyton, Epidermophyton or Microsporum.

12. The use as claimed in claim 11 wherein the dermatophyte is *Trichophyton* spp.

13. The use as claimed in claim 12 wherein the dermatophyte is *Trichophyton interdigitale.*

14. The use as claimed in claim 12 wherein the dermatophyte is *Trichophyton rubrum.*

15. The use as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the infection is onychomycosis.