

ONYGENA EQUINA (WILLDENOW) PERSOON

Andrus Voitk, Humber Village, NL

Onygena means arising from nails (claws or hooves). The genus is a keratin decomposer and can be found on shed hard keratinous substrates, like hooves and horns. Although equina means of horses, it is not restricted to species and accepts keratin from all sources. The onygenas are related to other keratin dwellers, like the microfungal dermatophytes that live on dead skin of live human beings, e.g. *Trichophyton rubrum*, the cause of athlete's foot. Other more distant relatives are species of *Penicillium*,

sources of both antibiotic and the blue of blue cheese. The figure shows a close-up of *Onygena equina* on decomposing moose hoof quick, with the whole shed quick of a moose hoof in the insert (photo by Mac Pitcher).

For a deeper review of this fungus, see the author's discussion in *The Osprey* (Voitk, 2010).

Reference: Voitk A (2010). *Onygena equina* (Willdenow) Persoon. *The Osprey*, in press.

