

'hypolipidemic' appears under 'isolated soy proteins', not as a subject in its own right and there are many more examples I could quote.

Despite these reservations, this will be a useful book, particularly for those involved in food manufacture using legumes or legume products. It is a specialist's book, with a lot of useful details, so those who will also find it useful will be nutritionists and others interested in legume composition, such as food technologists, food scientists and chemists, agronomists and animal scientists.

Ann F. Walker

Mechanisms of Action of Food Preservation Procedures. Edited by G. W. Gould. Elsevier Applied Science Publishers, London, 1989. xii + 441 pp. ISBN 1-85166-293-6. Price: £59.00.

Although many of the most commonly used food preservation procedures have a long history of successful use, their effective application has been largely empirically derived and their fundamental modes of action are not well understood. This absence of a firm scientific understanding constrains new developments and one of the aims of this book is to bring together current knowledge of the modes of action of preservation methods with the hope of encouraging the development of new and improved procedures.

The preservation procedures covered include heat, ionising radiation, low temperature, low water activity, low pH, organic acids and esters, sulphite, nitrite, modified atmospheres and natural biological antimicrobial systems. In addition, the roles of compartmentalisation in water/oil emulsions and of combination and synergistic effects are reviewed.

The book succeeds admirably in its aims and the editor and contributors are to be congratulated on avoiding the unevenness of quality and style that so often bedevils compilations of this type. I commend it both to researchers and product developers in the food industry and to educators and students of food science and technology. Unfortunately, the price is out of the range of most private purchasers, but put it on your library purchase list.

J. D. Owens