

Book review

Food Proteins. Processing Applications

S. Nakai and H.W. Modler (Eds.), 2000, Wiley-VCH, 390 pages, £64.50

This book was designed to complement “*Food Proteins; Properties and Characterisation*” published in 1996 in the Food Science and Technology VCH series.

The aim is to consider applications to food processing covering the main commodity food proteins. Eight chapters are presented by established authors from the public and private sectors. The chapters follow a conventional pattern and deal with milk, meat, poultry, egg, breadmaking, cereal, soybean and confectionery proteins.

Most of the chapters are very well referenced and all present a specific reference list and an additional general reference list, which is most useful for wider reading. In some cases the reference lists run into hundreds of entries with many very recent publications. The major exception is the chapter on confectionery which lists only 17 references, which probably reflects the very practical approach taken by the author, and the lack of references on this subject in the public domain.

The book presents an amazing quantity of information and is generally well written and easy to understand. I shall certainly recommend it as a reference work to undergraduate and postgraduate students of food science and technology. It would also be valuable to researchers in the field as well as food processors wishing to update their understanding of protein chemistry and processing.

My major criticism is that the work as a whole is rather conservative. The Preface discusses functional foods, bioactive peptides, chemopreventative agents, etc., revolutionising food production in the 21st century. Yet the book itself is much more traditional in its approach, dealing with the expected commodity areas. Perhaps the editors have missed the opportunity to explore some more adventurous ground. However, I still view the book as an invaluable source of information and an excellent reference.

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