



## Book Review

### Milk proteins. Structure - Function relationship

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The natural function of milk proteins is to supply young mammals with the essential amino acids required for their development and with a number of biologically active proteins. On the other hand, the properties of many dairy products depend on the properties of milk proteins. The book *Milk proteins: Structure – Function relationship* presents the current state of knowledge on the content of proteins in milk, the chemical, functional, and nutritive properties of milk proteins, the chemical and biochemical modification of proteins in milk during heat treatment. It emphasizes the structure-function relationship as well as the effects of practical thermal conditions applied in food processing on the biochemical and chemical reactions between milk proteins.

The book provides an overview of the physical properties of proteins and how dynamic changes in conformation, structural changes, and protein-protein interactions are involved in the performance of particular functional properties such as gelation, emulsification, foaming properties and susceptibility to enzymatic hydrolysis.

This book covers in a scientific and practical manner such subjects as structure and functions of caseins, whey proteins, the effect of thermal treatment on the functional properties of milk proteins, the conformational and structural premises to enzymes proteolysis, and kinetics and denaturation mechanisms during heat treatment and also describes some thermal intrinsic indicators to distinguishing different time-temperature combination applied in milk and dairy industry.

The following seven chapters describe the structure of milk proteins and present detailed information on the effects of conditions applied in processing on the reactions in proteins and their impact on quality attributes of food products.

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#### 1. Fundamentals of food proteins

Introduction  
 Classification of Proteins  
 Four Levels of Protein Structural Organization  
 General aspects of milk proteins composition  
 Classification and Nomenclature of the proteins of cows' milk  
 Nutritional and biological function of milk proteins

#### 2. Structure and function of caseins

General aspects  
 Molecular characterization of caseins  
 Casein micelle  
 Structure of casein micelle  
 Stability of casein micelle  
 Changes in casein micelle induced by heating  
 Casein interaction with calcium

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#### 3. Structure and properties of whey proteins

Introduction  
 $\beta$ -lactoglobulin  
 $\alpha$ -lactalbumin  
 Serum albumin bovine  
 Immunoglobulin  
 Lactoferrin  
 Proteins of the milk-fat globule membrane

#### 4. Heat-induced changes in functional properties of milk proteins

Introduction  
 Solubility  
 Emulsion and foam properties  
 Gelation properties

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**5. Structural and conformational premises of milk proteins to enzymatic hydrolysis**

Fundamentals of proteolysis  
Methods to quantify the extent of hydrolysis  
Enzymatic processing of proteins  
Susceptibility of  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin to enzymatic hydrolysis  
The influence of heat treatment on the susceptibility of  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin to enzymatic hydrolysis

**6. Kinetics parameters and mechanisms of heat induced denaturation of milk proteins**

General aspects  
Mechanisms of thermal denaturation of whey proteins  
Kinetics of heat induced structural changes of  $\beta$ -lactoglobulin in enzymatic susceptibility

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**7. Intrinsic indicators for heat treatment of milk**

Introduction  
Safety criteria  
Intrinsic indicators for pasteurization  
    Alkaline phosphatase  
    Lactoperoxidase  
     $\gamma$ -Glutamyl transferase

Whey proteins  
Intrinsic indicators for sterilization  
    Maillard reaction  
    Lactulose  
    Volatile compounds  
Limitations of thermal intrinsic indicators  
European regulatory requirements

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The *Milk proteins: Structure – Function relationship* book provides an accessible resource covering all aspects of milk protein biochemistry for scientists and students. It describes traditional and state-of-the-art techniques for elucidating protein function and structure. The *Milk proteins: Structure – Function relationship* is a comprehensive and reliable resource for teachers, students and researchers in the life sciences.

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