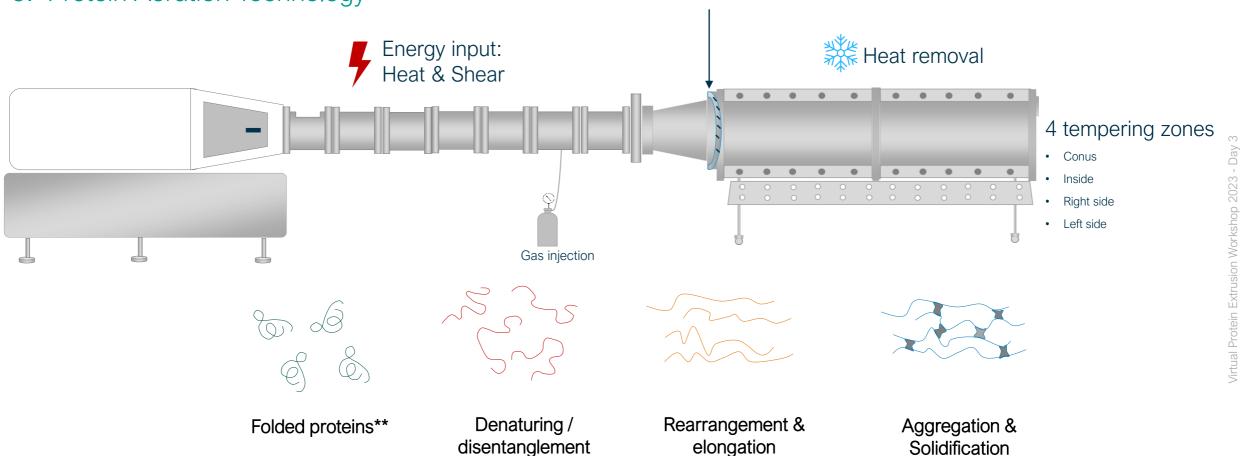
Process Innovations – Protein Aeration Technology & Breaker Plates

Dr. Christian Kern Process Engineer R&D – Bühler AG



# Process Controls to Optimize Product Texture

- 1. Breaker plates
- 2. Distinct tempering of zones
- 3. Protein Aeration Technology



Different breaker plates

# Breaker Plates Improving Texture in HME

Flow modification of plasticized, viscoelastic mass Specific flow pattern depending on

- Breaker plate dimension and geometry
- Breaker plate open area
  - $\rightarrow$  Macroscopic and complex textures
  - → Tailoring of texture by custom-made breaker plate concepts
  - → Loose overall texture of extrudate (natural appearance)

Possible applications

- Muscle meat cuts
- Fish-like products



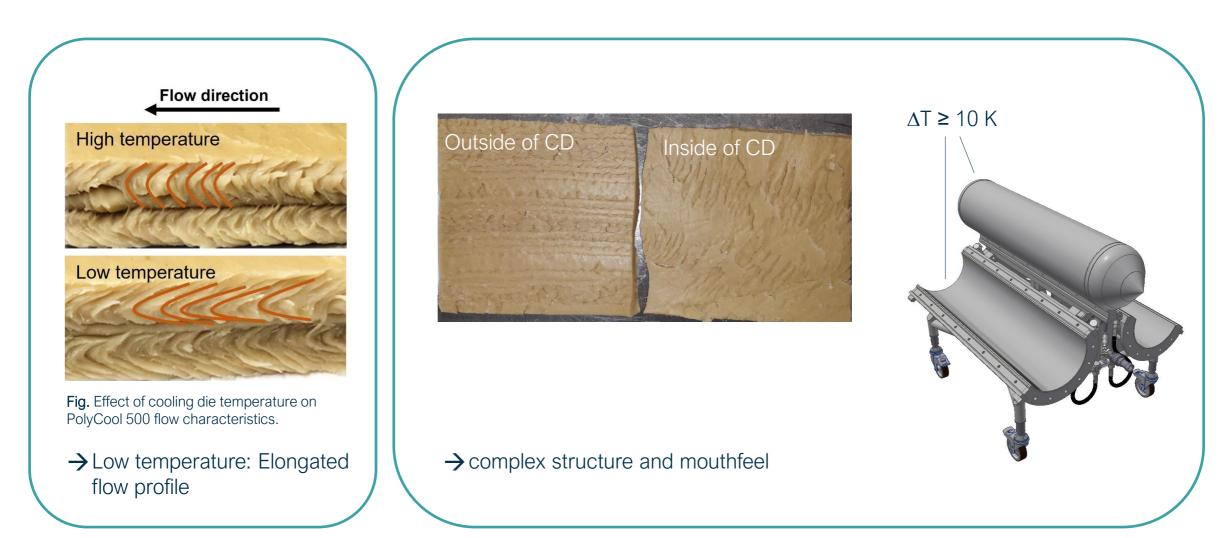
## Breaker Plates Effect of Breaker Plates on Product Texture (PolyCool 500)



Figs. Hardness vs open die area (left) and macroscopic texturization (right) (internal R&D).

→ The lower the open area, the larger the shear stress and thus, looser texture in final product (lower hardness)

# Distinct Tempering of Zones in the PolyCool 500



**L**BUHLER

### What is Protein Aeration Technology?

The next generation of meat substitutes.

In using Protein Aeration Technology, gas is injected into the extruder to create a microporous structure in the product. When the product leaves the cooling die, gas expansion is achieved between the protein fibers.

This helps to generate biting properties and mouthfeel closer to meat or fish.

Products are lighter and look just like real chicken.





# Protein Aeration Technology changes the colour and texture of your product according to your needs.

BUHLER

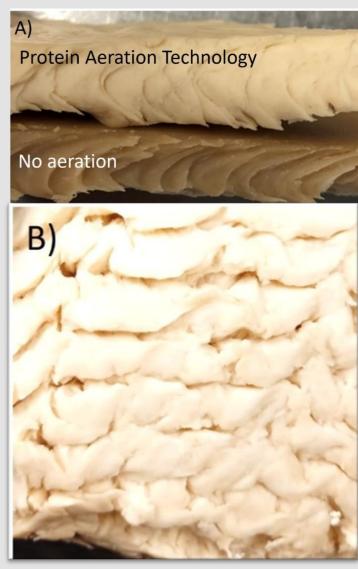
These unique novel textures can be adjusted by injecting different volumes of gas. This provides a great degree of versatility, ranging from a simple color change to generating softer textures, such as those used in seafood and fish substitutes.



#### Protein Aeration Technology



Video. Effect of Protein Aeration Technology and breaker plates on texture.



**Fig. A** Effect of Protein Aeration Technology on texture **Fig. B** Example meat alternative produced by breaker plates and Protein Aeration Technology.

## Protein Aeration Technology and Breaker Plates The Next Generation of Meat Analogues

#### Meatier fibers Altered flow pattern within cooling die

#### Different shades of Color

Depending on amount of gas, color shades can be adjusted to match animal meat

#### Higher Flavor Absorption Through micropores created by gas expansion flavor infuses deeper

Added Value to Product Characteristics

#### Thicker Product

Gas expansion after leaving cooling die leads to up to 10% thicker extrudate

Meatier/Fishier bite and mouthfeel Adjustable to mimic different kinds of meat and fish through softer bite and reduced density

# BUHLER

#### INNOVATIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD

Virtual Protein Extrusion Workshop 2023 - Da