
VERSATILITY OF NATURE IN POLYMER MATERIALS

**Fraunhofer Institute for Applied
Polymer Research IAP**

**Functional Protein Systems /
Biotechnology**

Dr. David Dietz



The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft at a Glance

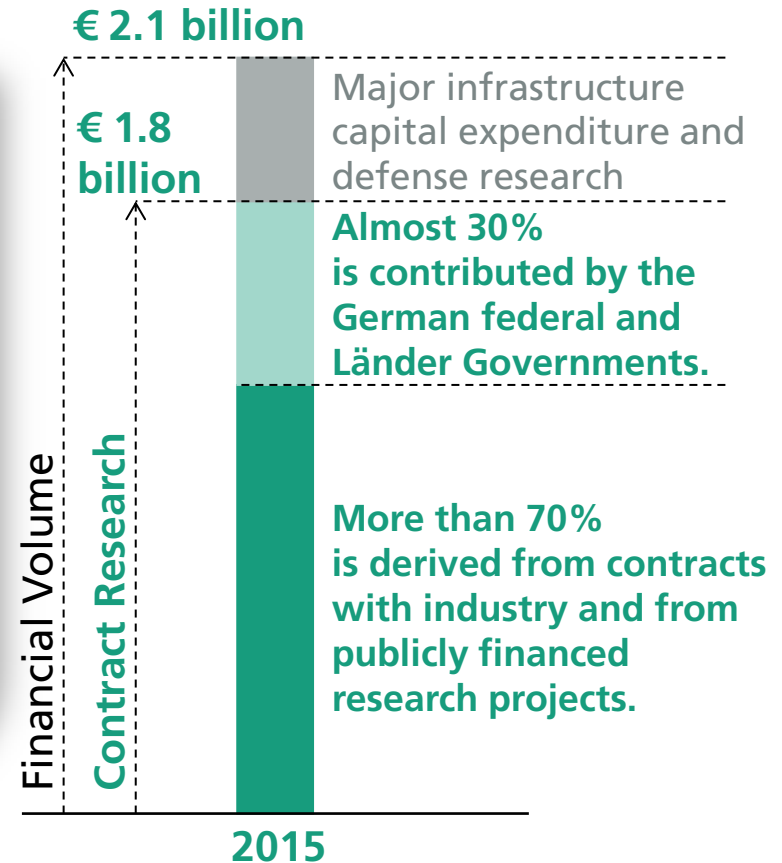
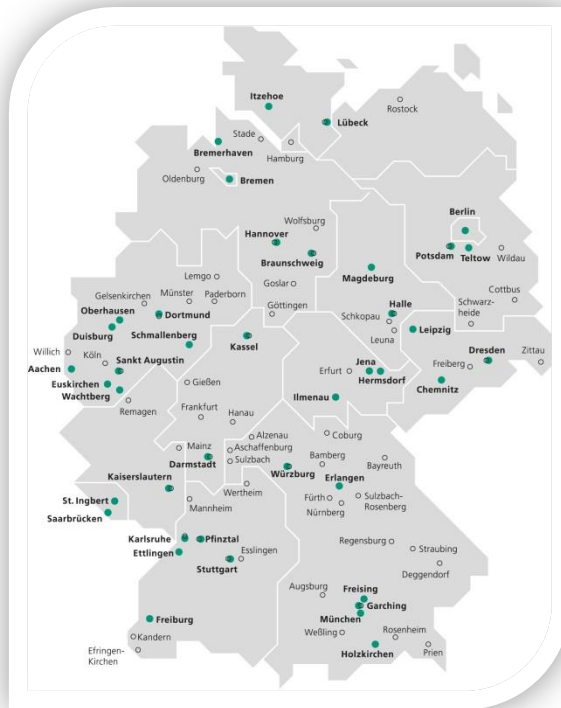
The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft undertakes applied research of direct utility to private and public enterprise and of wide benefit to society.



Nearly **24,000**
staff



67 institutes
and research units



FRAUNHOFER IAP

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker
Director



Fraunhofer IAP at a Glance

- 220 employees, incl. PhD students, apprentices, etc.
- ca. € 20.2 million institute's budget
ca. € 13.6 million external revenues
- research sites: **Potsdam-Golm**
Schkopau
Schwarzheide
Teltow
Wildau



Research Divisions

Biopolymers

Dr. Johannes Ganster

biopolymers (cellulose, starch, lignin),
biobased plastics (PLA, PHA, PA),
fibers, blends and composites



Functional Polymer Systems

Dr. Armin Wedel

materials with specific optical and electronic
properties, polymeric OLEDs, polymer
electronic components, organic solar cells

Synthesis and Polymer Technology

Dr. Thorsten Pretsch

polymer synthesis and process development,
microencapsulation/particle applications,
function integrated polymer films,
shape-memory polymers



Life Science and Bioprocesses

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker

keratin fibers, biotechnological processes,
protein conjugates, self-assembly techniques,
"smart" materials for medical applications

Pilot Plant Center PAZ

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Bartke

polymer synthesis and processing,
scale up to ton scale



Polymeric Materials and Composites PYCO

Dr. Christian Dreyer

thermoset resins for applications in
lightweight construction and micro- and
optoelectronics

SILK PROTEINS

- silk proteins are widespread in insects
- best known examples spider, bombyx mori



Foto: Glen Peterson, Flickr



Foto: Pixabay
Zhu, Rev. Entomol. 2010. 55:171–88

LACEWING SILK PROTEIN

- Silk protein : N-[AS]₈-C called "flor2"
- Origin : Mallada signata - MalXB2

N-Terminus: NYNIWSNVNAHPTDCGNSGGSSGSSAASGAASSSGSGSAAGSGAAS
GSGAASGSGAASGSGAASGSGAASGSGAASGSGAASGSGAASGSGAASGSGAAS
GS GAASGSGAAS GSGAASGSGAASGSGSASGSGSASGSGSSSGSGSSGCGSG

C-Terminus: GSASASSDGFSAACDSGESEAVDKANLAAIANIAAAAGKPAACGSAPP
SDDYYDYGCG

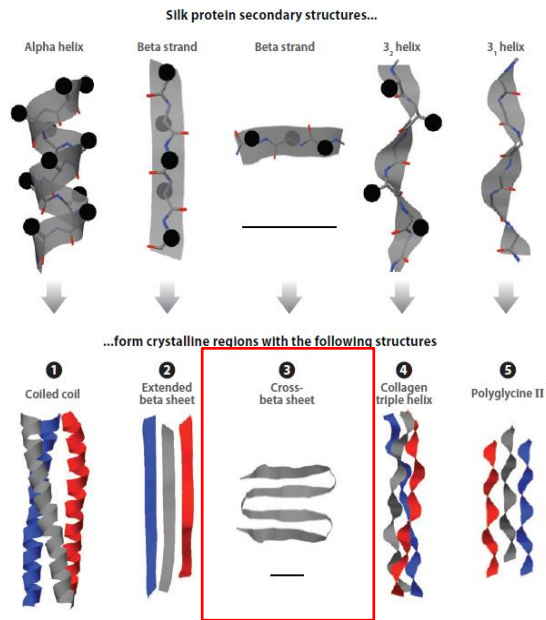
AS Modul: GSAGASSNGSSATASKGSAGATSNSTAVASKGSAGASSGNSTASATK



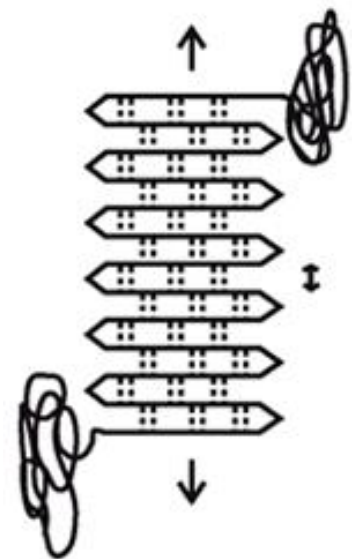
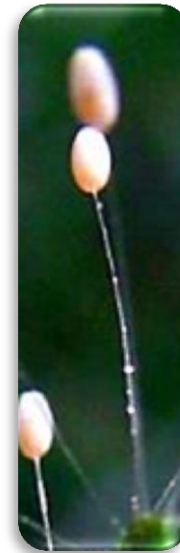
Abbildung nach: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201200591

LACEWING SILK PROTEIN

- Interesting protein due to its higher structure
 - cross- β -sheet structure
- high flexural stiffness



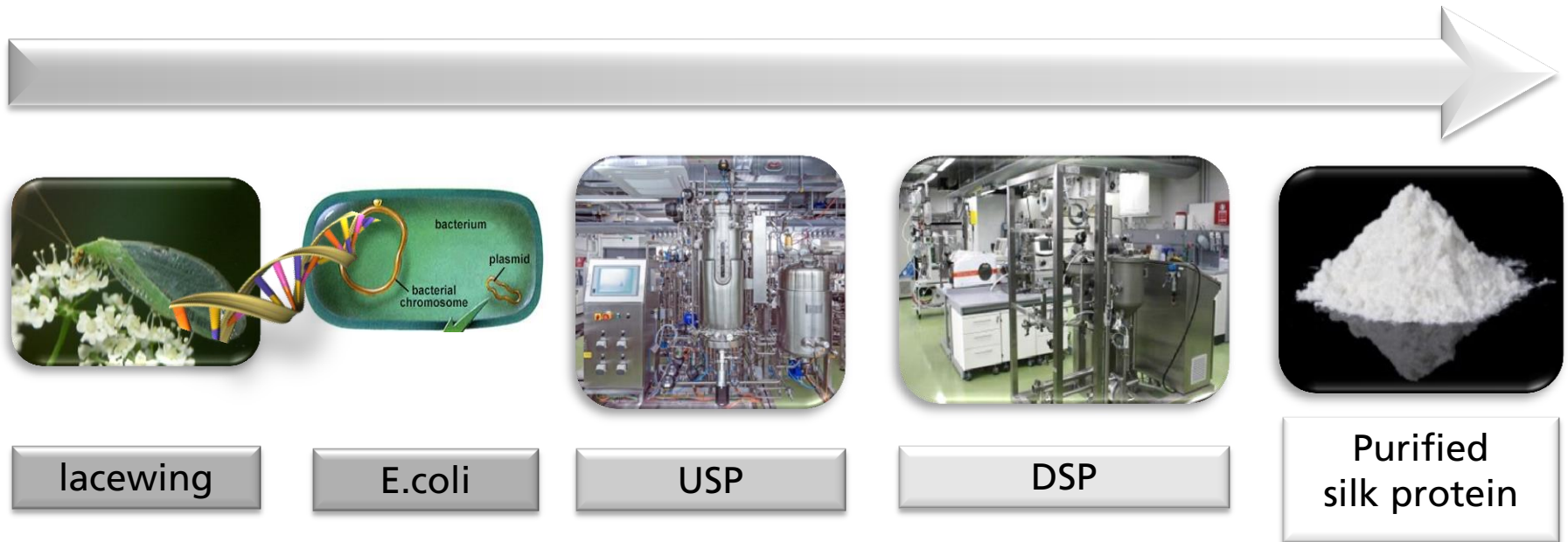
Annu. Rev. Entomol. 2010. 55:171–88



Biomacromolecules
2012, 13, 3730–3735

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PROCESS DEVELOPMENT



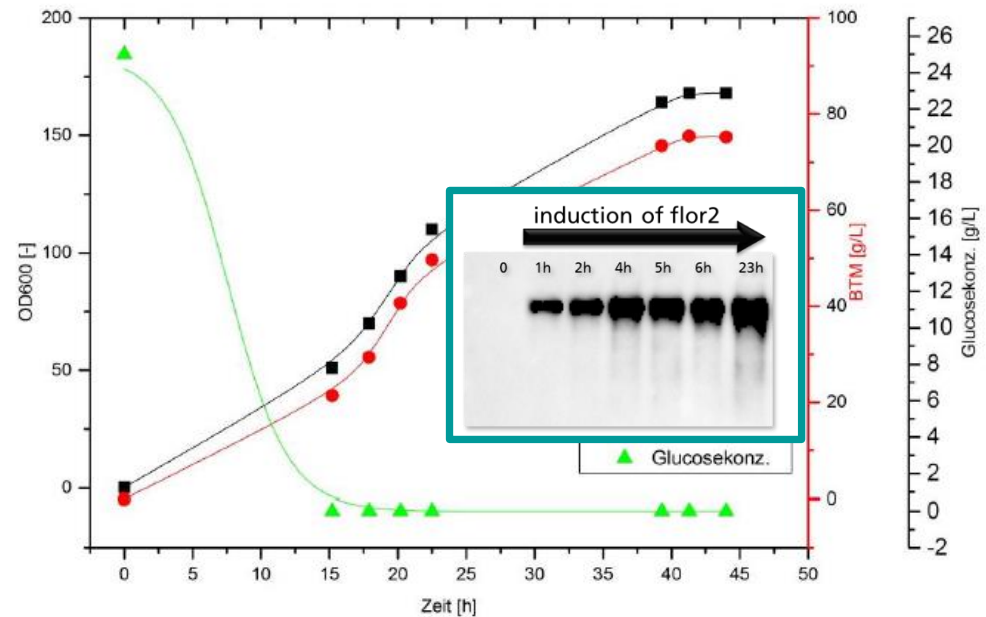
UPSTREAM PROCESS

HIGH CELL DENSITY CULTIVATION (HCDC) WITH E.COLI BACTERIA – FLOR2-SYNTHESIS

- Control of various parameters
pH, T, p, Stirrer, pO₂, substrate
feeding ...
- HCDC with E.coli bacteria
(flor2)
- BDM of 75 g/L

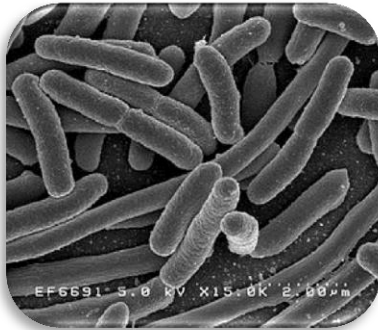


© Fraunhofer IAP, Foto: Till Budde



DOWNSTREAM PROCESS

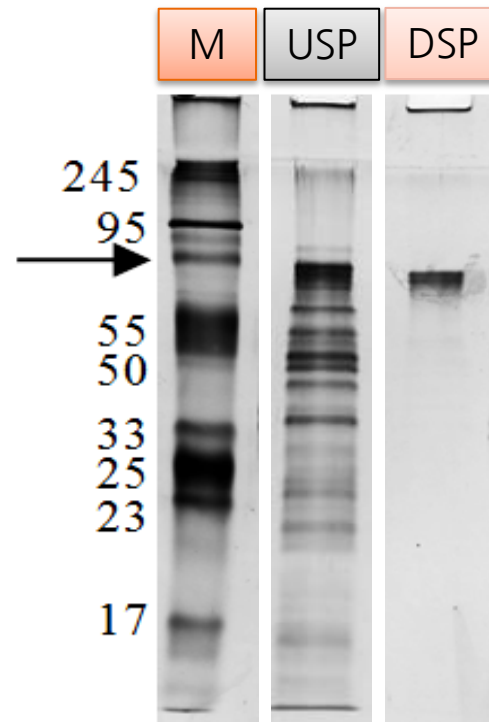
PURIFICATION OF RECOMBINANT LACEWING SILK PROTEIN



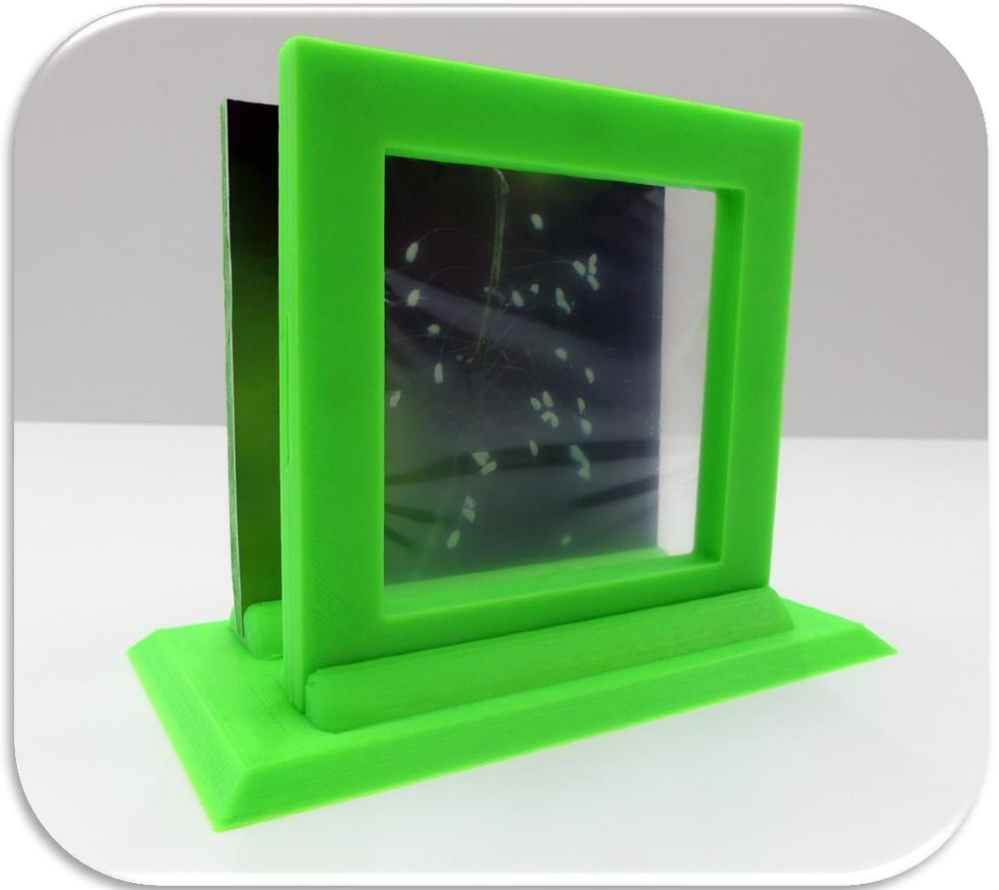
Wikipedia: E.coli,
Foto: NIAID



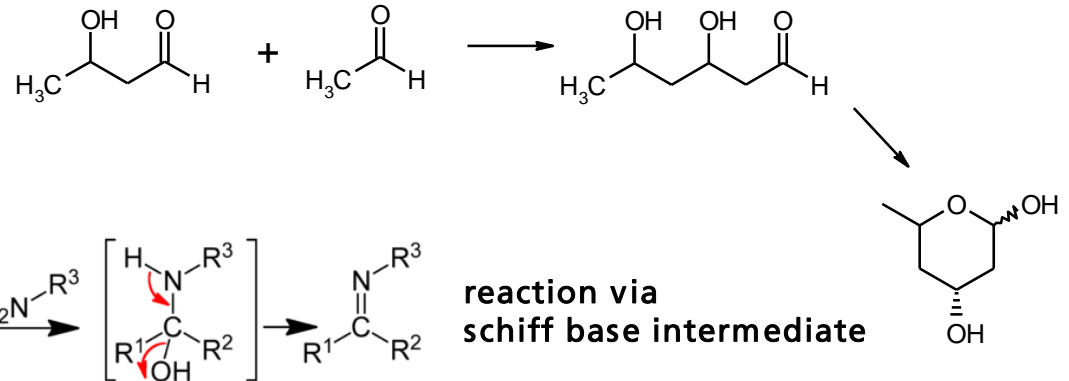
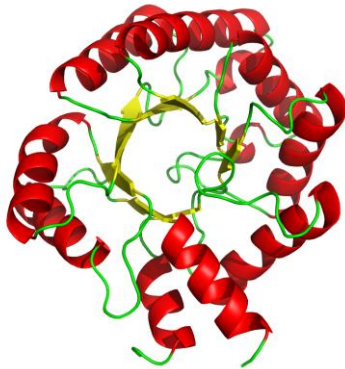
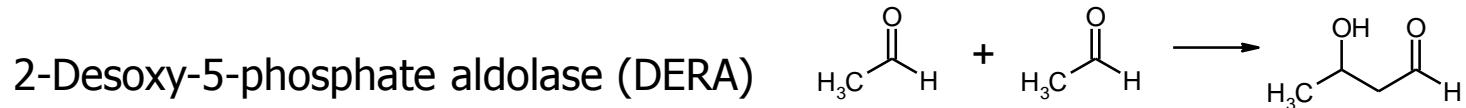
 target protein



PROCESSING TO LACEWING SILK FILMS



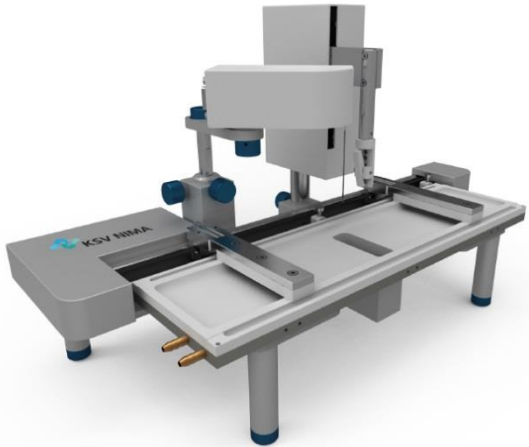
COMBINE ENZYMES AND POLYMERS – ENZYME IMMOBILIZATION OF DERA



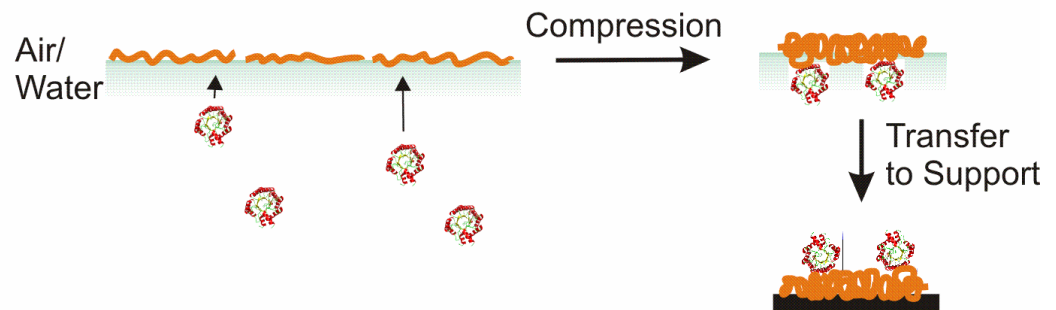
DERA:

- ❖ aldehyde both as donor and acceptor (normally aldehyde and ketone)
- ❖ only aldolase which accepts two or three aldehydes in sequential manner
- ❖ works without cofactor
- ❖ synthesis of atorvastatin (decrease of cholesterol levels)
- ❖ problem: stability in contact with substrate/product

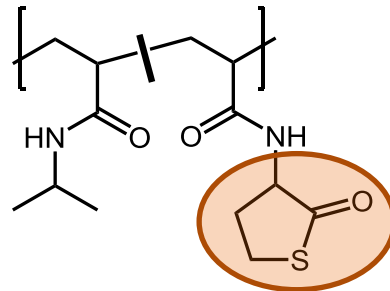
DERA IMMOBILIZATION VIA LANGMUIR SCHAEFER



Langmuir balance



P(NIPAAm-co-TlaAm)

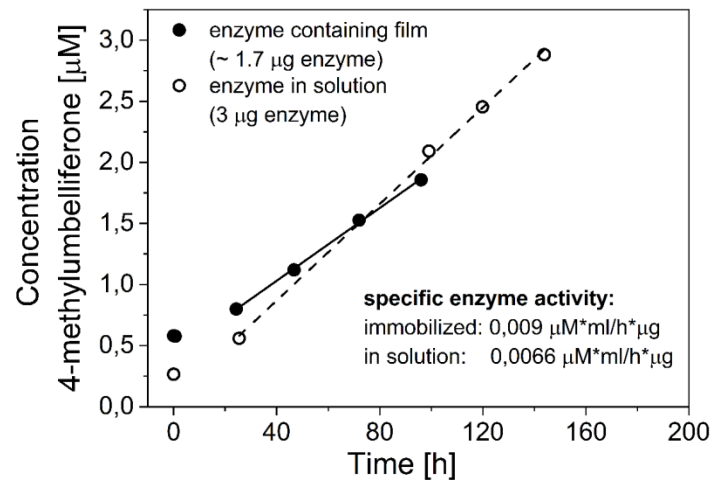
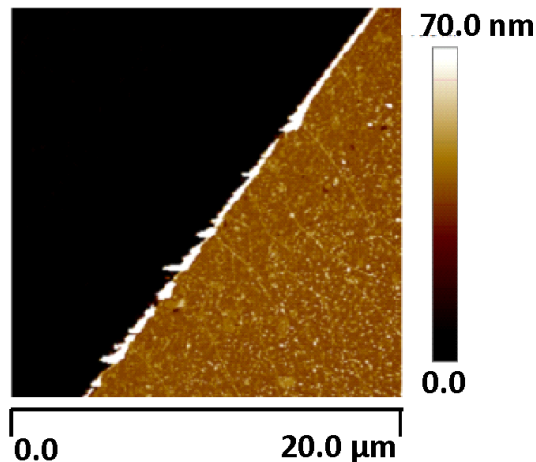
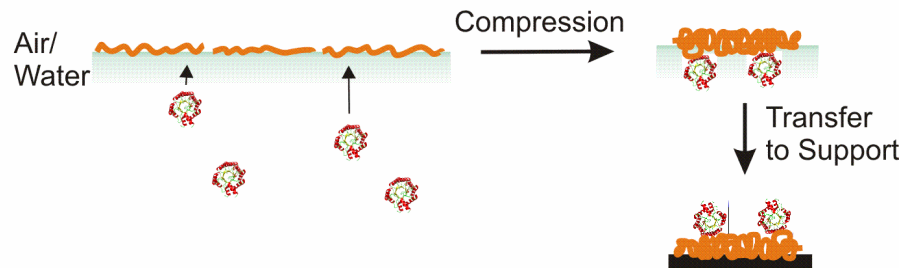


Thiolactone:

- ❖ hydrophobizes polymer
- ❖ Reactive towards lysines
- ❖ Hydrolyzable
→ hydrophilization and crosslinking

Reinicke et al. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interf.* **2017**, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.6b13632

DERA IMMOBILIZATION VIA LANGMUIR SCHAEFER

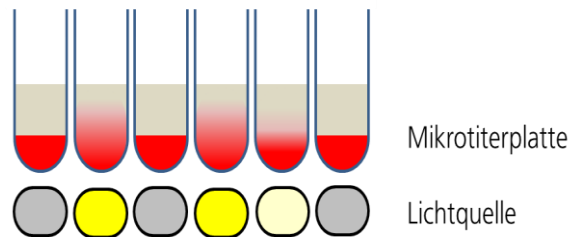


Reinicke et al. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interf.* 2017, DOI: 10.1021/acsami.6b13632

POLYMERS FOR BIOPROCESS DEVELOPMENT - SMARTPHOTOPLATE

Development of a non-invasive, light-inducible substance release in microtiter plates for scale-down and high-throughput

Principle:



- Target substance is incorporated in a light-responsive polymer
- Release by light induction, depending on light intensity

Application:

- Induction
- Feeding
- pH-control

→ HTS

→ Strain development

→ Scale-Down

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung


Thank you for your attention!

Fraunhofer IAP

Research Division: Life Science & Bioprocesses

Department: Functional Protein Systems / Biotechnology

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