Claims

1. A nozzle for directing heated gas onto the distal end of a capillary arrangable adjacent the nozzle, the nozzle comprising:

a housing defining a plenum for heated gas; and

an outlet comprising at least one aperture fluidly connected to the plenum, the outlet configured to direct a curtain of the heated gas onto the distal end of a capillary in use, such that the plane of the curtain of heated gas is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the capillary.

2. A nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the outlet comprises a plurality of apertures arranged substantially linearly.

3. A nozzle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the outlet comprises four apertures.

4. A nozzle according to claim 2 or 3, wherein each of the apertures has substantially the same surface area.

5. A nozzle according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein each of the apertures is substantially circular.

6. A nozzle according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the aperture(s) is/are non-circular.

7. A nozzle according to claim 6, wherein the aperture(s) is/are elongated.

8. A nozzle according to claim 6, wherein the outlet comprises a single elongate aperture.

9. A nozzle according to claim 6, wherein the outlet comprises a plurality of elongate apertures, wherein the direction of elongation is substantially perpendicular to the plane of the curtain of heated gas.

10. A nozzle according to any preceding claim, further comprising a heater arrangement, for heating gas in the plenum.

11. A nozzle according to any preceding claim, wherein the housing comprises a cylindrical outer sleeve and a substantially planar plate at the distal end of the sleeve, wherein the outlet is provided in said plate.

12. A nozzle according to any preceding claim, further comprising a gas source, for delivering a gas to the plenum.

13. A nozzle according to claim 12, wherein the gas is nitrogen.

14. A source assembly comprising:

a source housing, configured to receive at least the distal end of a capillary therein; and

a nozzle according to any preceding claim, received in the source housing, configured such that, in use, the plane of the curtain of heated gas is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the capillary.

15. A source assembly according to claim 14, further comprising a capillary, wherein the distal end of the capillary is received in the source assembly and the plane of the curtain of heated gas is substantially aligned with the longitudinal axis of the capillary.