Comments to Reviewer 3

I find the manuscript, Combined Supplementation of Nano-Zinc Oxide and Thyme Oil Improves the Nutrient Digestibility and Reproductive Fertility in the Male Californian Rabbits" valuable. Below please read my comments.

Authors´ response: Dear Reviewer, thank you for your helpful comments and evaluation of our manuscript which improved the final form of our paper! Please find our reply to your comments below and a list of changes that we made according to your suggestions. We have addressed all suggestions and highlighted green.

Q1. Lines 78-80: This statement is true but does not fit this paragraph. Besides, try to avoid self-citations...

Author response R1: Modified as requested (**Lines 77-78**)

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Q2. Line 81: please delete the world, also".

Author response R2: Done (**Line 79**).

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Q3. Lines 167-170: I don't understand why authors use such complicated procedure for counting intergroup differences. The correct test for this number of animals is the Tukey test. Besides, authors state here that all values were expressed for 25 animals whereas on line 150 there is talk of 15 animals.

Author response R3: Thanks very much for your comment. We again analyzed the data of the four treatment groups including the control group by *one-way* ANOVA using the recommended *Tukey test* as *post-hoc* test for the significance differences among groups. Also, the significant differences were confirmed between each two groups by using *student t-test* for unpaired/one-tailed data. We thank you very much, the corrected data became matching our findings and smoothly discussed (**Lines: 167-171**, highlighted green). The number of animals used in all treatments was 25, it was corrected and highlighted green (**Line 151**). Thanks.

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Q4. Discussion: This section should be complemented by a discussion of the effects of thyme oil on rabbits.

Author response R4: Thank you very much. According to your comment, we added a new paragraph on the effect of feeding thyme oil in rabbits with 2 new reference citations (**28, 29**) at the beginning of the discussion part (**Lines: 240-247**) and highlighted with green.

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Q5. Conclusions: This section should be redone. Note that if the results obtained by the last group do not differ from the results obtained by groups 2 and 3, then it points to no sense to give to rabbits the combination you used (NZnO 100 mg/kg and THO 500 mg/kg). Figure 4, however, needs attention and should be discussed in the previous chapter (authors should try to explain why testosterone level jumped so high in the last group).

Author response R5: Thanks. The part of conclusion was corrected and redone according to the results. We have re-edited as following:

In view of the above findings, it can be concluded that ZnO-NPs, THO, or their combination in rabbit feeding resulted in improved nutrient digestibility, liver and kidney functions, as well as semen quality. The combined treatment of ZnO-NPs with THO suggested a possible synergistic effect for stimulating testosterone secretion and increasing the volume of seminal plasma. Further molecular analysis and fertility studies are required to elaborate on this combinational effect.

Also, the variable effects of the treatment groups on testosterone secretion was reported in the section of results (**Lines: 286-313**) and highlighted grey. Kindly read it.