

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

Desert Research Center



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Dear Editor,

We thank you for your comments. We responded to your comments and enclosed unclean paper including all comments colored by yellow. Below are the responses to all the comments.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our manuscript to Peer J.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Alaa Rabee

Researcher at Desert Research Center, Egypt

On behalf of all authors

Comments

Manuscript title: **“Comparative analysis of the metabolically active microbial communities in the rumen of dromedary camels under different feeding systems using total rRNA sequencing ”**

Editor’s comments

Before I send this to reviewers, I need your group of authors to carefully proofread it. I only briefly reviewed this version and I noticed several minor points, which suggests the manuscript has not been adequately proof read by the coauthors.

>> We have revised it.

My major concern was not addressed. The discussion of the limitations of the experimental design (line 445-449) doesn't make clear that you can tell that the treatment effects were due to feed or location. That should be made clear in lines 293 - 307, with appropriate references on pseudoreplication. You cannot address the flaws in experimental design by simply providing recommendations for the next study.

>> We modified this paragraph at the beginning of the discussion and removed the paragraph at the end of the discussion and make minor change in the conclusion. Furthermore, we included a supplementary not S1, which clarify why the diet has the major impact on the microbial communities, thank you.

line 127. Always cap Table and Figures.

>> Modified

Table 2 and throughout. When presenting mean and SE, always present the same significant figures (5 +/- 1 not 5 +/- 0.001).

>> Modified.