

Effect of Coenzyme Q10 as an Antioxidant Added to Semen Extender During Cryopreservation of Buffalo and Cattle Semen

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the influence of supplementing Tris-extender with Coenzyme Q10 (COQ10) as an antioxidant on sperm characteristics of Egyptian buffalo and cattle. This study was carried out at Animal Production Research Station, El-Gemmezah, belonging to Animal Production Research Institute, Egypt. Five sexually mature buffalo (4 y and 400-450 kg) and Friesian (3 y and 350-400 kg) bulls were used in this study. Semen was collected twice weekly for five successive weeks. Only ejaculates with $\geq 70\%$ mass motility were pooled and diluted at 37°C with Tris-extender containing 0, 20 and $30\ \mu\text{M}$ of CoQ10 in T1, T2 and T3, respectively. Equilibration period was at 5°C for 4 h and semen was packed in 0.25 ml French straws frozen in liquid nitrogen -196°C . Stored straws were thawed individually at 37°C for 30 s. Semen was evaluated for sperm characteristics including percentages of progressive motility, livability, abnormality, curled tail and acrosomal damage of spermatozoa. Enzymatic activity of AST, ALT and LDH was determined in seminal plasma of post-thawed semen. Results showed that there were no species differences in all sperm characteristics studied, except for increasing ($P < 0.05$) percentage of abnormality and damage acrosome spermatozoa in post-thawed semen of cattle compared with buffalo bulls. All sperm characteristics were improved ($P < 0.05$) by $30\ \mu\text{M}$ COQ10 supplementation T3 in post-diluted, post-equilibrated and post thawed semen as compared to control without supplementation T1 in buffalo and cattle semen. Activity of all enzymes reduced ($P < 0.05$) in seminal plasma of both species. In conclusion, CoQ10, as antioxidant, at a level of $30\ \mu\text{M}$ in Tris-extender is able to enhance most sperm characteristics including mobility, livability, plasma membrane integrity, with decreasing sperm abnormalities and it has strong protective power against acrosomal damage of buffalo and cattle spermatozoa.

Keywords: Cattle, buffalo, semen, coenzyme Q10, membrane integrity, enzyme activity.

INTRODUCTION

The production potential of livestock can be increased by genetic improvement using one of the modern ways of breed improvement, e.g. artificial insemination (AI). Cryopreservation of sperm is an essential tool which offers many advantages to the livestock industry (Bucak *et al.*, 2009). AI makes the dissemination of genetic material from a small number of superior sires to a large number of females possible, but the success of an AI program depends on the proper management of semen collection, storage and use (Leboeuf *et al.*, 2000; Petruska *et al.*, 2014).

The viability, motility and membrane integrity of mammalian spermatozoa decrease during the cryopreservation process and cold shock could damage mitochondria (Pena *et al.*, 2009), and plasma and acrosome membranes of spermatozoa (Meyers, 2005). During cryopreservation, the cell is exposed to several stresses which can result in compromised its function and death (Smith *et al.*, 2011). Also, spermatozoa were exposed to cold shock and atmospheric oxygen, which in turn increases their susceptibility to lipid peroxidation (LPO) due to higher production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Nair *et al.*, 2006).

ROS and antioxidants have been shown to play an important role in male fertility. The frozen-thawed spermatozoon produce ROS due to cellular respiration several evidences suggested reduction in antioxidant levels in seminal plasma and hence they are sensitive to oxidative damage induced by high O_2 concentrations. Also, the high content of unsaturated fatty acids in the phospholipids of sperm plasma membrane increased the peroxidative damage (Lenzi *et al.*, 2002; Nair *et al.*, 2006). The excessive formation of both ROS and LPO during sperm cryopreservation has been associated with a decrease in quality, viability and fertilizing potential of thawed spermatozoa (Asadpour *et al.*, 2012). Thus,

addition of synthetic antioxidants to semen extenders could reduce the impact of oxidative stress during the sperm storage process, and led to improve the quality of cryopreserved semen. In general, antioxidants are compounds that dispose of scavenge and suppress the formation of the toxicity of ROS such as H_2O_2 and LPO to the viability and fertilizing potential of bovine spermatozoa (Folstad and Skarstein, 1997).

Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10), known as ubiquinone or ubidecarenone, is a lipophilic molecule classified as a fat soluble quinone (Kapoor and Kapoor, 2013) presented in all cellular membranes and in blood (Pindaru *et al.* 2015). CoQ10 plays an important role in cellular metabolism. It is an important lipid-soluble antioxidant, scavenges free radicals and inhibits oxidation of lipid as well as a membrane stabilizer (El-Tohamy *et al.* 2012). It is also play a key role in the mitochondrial electron transport chain as a coenzyme in adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthesis (Showell *et al.*, 2011). The highest CoQ10 concentrations were found in organs with the highest energy requirements such as the heart and the liver (Dos Santos *et al.*, 2009).

In sperm cells, most CoQ10 is concentrated in the mitochondria of the mid-piece and there is a direct correlation between its levels in seminal fluid and sperm characteristics. Also, energy of the sperm cell depends on the availability of CoQ10 (Mancini *et al.*, 2005). CoQ10 is commonly used to enhance sperm motility in human due to its protective effects against LPO and DNA fragmentation of cryopreserved spermatozoa (Showell *et al.*, 2011; Talevi *et al.*, 2013).

Therefore, the current study was undertaken to investigate the effect of extender supplementation with Coenzyme Q10 (20 and $30\ \mu\text{M}$) on sperm quality and viability following the freeze-thawing process of both Egyptian buffalo and cattle bulls semen.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted at Animal Production Research Station, El-Gemmezah, belonging to Animal Production Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture Egypt.

Animals and semen collection:

Semen was collected, twice weekly for 5 weeks, from five sexually mature Egyptian buffalo (4 years old and 400-450 kg LBW) and Friesian bulls (3 years old and 350-400 kg LBW) using an artificial vagina (IMV, France) at 7-8 a.m. After collection, ejaculates were taken immediately to the laboratory in water bath at 37°C for evaluation and freezing processes. Only ejaculates with mass motility $\geq 70\%$ on day of semen collection were evaluated. All ejaculates were pooled and divided into three portions diluted with Tris extender supplemented with 2 levels of CoQ10 (C9538: Sigma Aldrich co., St Louis, Mo, USA) and control without supplementation.

Experimental semen extenders:

Semen was extended in Tris-egg yolk extender (Tris, 0.325 g; citric acid, 1.675 g; glucose, 0.75 g; streptomycin, 0.005 g and lincomycin, 0.25 g in 100 ml distilled water, then 10% egg yolk and 7% glycerol were added to 83 ml Tris extender). The dilution rate was 1:10. Three types of extenders were used, T1 without supplementation (control), T2 (with 20 μM of CoQ10) and T3 (30 μM of CoQ10).

Semen processing:

Diluted semen was aspirated into medium-sized (0.25 ml) French straws, sealed with polyvinyl alcohol powder and equilibrated at 5°C for 4 h. After equilibration, the straws were frozen in liquid nitrogen vapor, 5 cm above liquid nitrogen for 10 min and then the straws were plunged into liquid nitrogen for storage (-196°C). After storage for 4 weeks, frozen straws were thawed at 37°C for 30 s in water bath.

Semen evaluation and enzyme activity: Semen extended with each treatment level was evaluated in post-diluted, post-equilibrated and post-thawed semen (at 37°C for 30 s) for percentage of individual motility, livability, abnormality, acrosomal damage and curled tail spermatozoa. Percentage of curled spermatozoa (HOS-t) was performed at 50 mOsm/l for 30 min.

Also, enzyme activities of aspartate (AST), alanine (ALT) transaminases (Schmidt and Schmidt, 1963) and lactic dehydrogenase, LDH (Howell and Cols, 1979) were determined in seminal plasma of post-thawed semen.

Statistical analysis:

Data were statistically analyzed by the methods of analysis of variance according model procedures of SPSS (2013) to test the effect of species, antioxidant treatment or their interaction on different sperm characteristics of enzyme activity. Duncan multiple range test was used to test the significant differences among means (Duncan, 1955). The percentage values were subjected to arcsine transformation before performing the analysis of variance. Means were presented after being recalculated from the transformed values to percentages. All mean differences were set at $P < 0.05$.

RESULTS

Sperm characteristics in post-diluted semen:

Sperm characteristics including percentages of motility, livability, abnormality, curled tail and damage acrosome in post-diluted semen, were not affected significantly by animal species. However, the effect of CoQ10 treatment was significant ($P < 0.05$) on all sperm characteristics studied, being significantly ($P < 0.05$) better in semen extended with both CoQ10 levels than control one. It is of interest to note that increasing level of CoQ10 from 20 to 30 μM significantly ($P < 0.05$) improved all sperm characteristics in diluted semen. There was no significant effect of interaction between animal species and different CoQ10 levels on all sperm characteristics (Table 1).

Table 1. Mean and standard error of sperm characteristics in post-diluted semen as affected by species, CoQ10 treatment and their interaction.

| Item | Sperm characteristics (%) | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Sperm motility | Sperm livability | Sperm abnormality | Curled spermatozoa | Damage acrosome |
| Effect of species: | | | | | |
| Buffalo (B) | 72.87±1.24 | 71.53±1.28 | 19.33±1.75 | 71.87±0.96 | 19.80±1.10 |
| Cattle (C) | 73.60±1.22 | 72.27±1.54 | 20.20±1.78 | 73.47±1.06 | 20.67±1.09 |
| Significance | $P < 0.42^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.43^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.34^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.12^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.11^{\text{NS}}$ |
| Effect of antioxidant treatment: | | | | | |
| T1 (control) | 67.70±0.79 ^c | 65.90±0.72 ^c | 28.20±1.01 ^a | 69.00±0.79 ^c | 25.50±0.48 ^a |
| T2 (20 μM CoQ10) | 74.80±0.77 ^b | 72.20±0.53 ^b | 17.70±0.70 ^b | 73.00±0.77 ^b | 18.90±0.57 ^b |
| T3 (30 μM CoQ10) | 77.20±0.70 ^a | 77.60±0.98 ^a | 13.40±0.43 ^c | 76.00±1.00 ^a | 16.30±0.37 ^c |
| Effect of interaction: | | | | | |
| T1 x B | 67.00±1.22 | 65.80±0.49 | 28.00±1.26 | 68.40±0.81 | 25.40±0.40 |
| T1 x C | 68.40±1.03 | 66.00±1.45 | 28.40±1.72 | 69.60±1.40 | 25.60±0.93 |
| T2 x B | 74.60±0.40 | 72.00±0.89 | 16.80±0.58 | 72.20±0.97 | 17.80±0.37 |
| T2 x C | 75.00±1.58 | 72.40±0.68 | 18.60±1.21 | 73.80±1.20 | 20.00±0.84 |
| T3 x B | 77.00±0.95 | 76.80±0.97 | 13.20±0.58 | 75.00±1.58 | 16.20±0.58 |
| T3 x C | 77.40±1.12 | 78.40±1.75 | 13.60±0.68 | 77.00±1.22 | 16.40±0.51 |
| Significance | $P < 0.87^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.79^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.76^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.95^{\text{NS}}$ | $P < 0.21^{\text{NS}}$ |

Means denoted within the same column with different superscripts are significantly different at $P < 0.05$. ^{NS}: Not significant.

Sperm characteristics in post-equilibrated semen:

As found in post-diluted semen, all sperm characteristics in post-equilibrated semen were not affected significantly by animal species, but were affected significantly by 30 μM CoQ10, followed by 20 μM CoQ10, and the lowest for control (un-supplemented). Percentage of sperm motility and curled tail spermatozoa was significantly (P<0.05) better in

semen extended with both CoQ10 levels than control one. However, percentage of livability, abnormality and damage acrossome of spermatozoa was significantly (P<0.05) the highest for semen extended with 30 μM CoQ10. There was no significant effect of interaction between animal species and different CoQ10 levels on all sperm characteristics (Table 2).

Table 2. Mean and standard error of sperm characteristics in post- equilibrated semen as affected by species, CoQ10 treatment and their interaction.

| Item | Sperm characteristics (%) | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Sperm motility | Sperm livability | Sperm abnormality | Curled spermatozoa | Damage acrossome |
| Effect of species | | | | | |
| Buffalo (B) | 68.47±1.43 | 68.60±1.67 | 23.93±1.89 | 69.80±1.40 | 23.67±1.36 |
| Cattle (C) | 69.33±1.48 | 69.13±1.66 | 24.87±1.86 | 70.67±1.30 | 24.20±1.37 |
| Significance | P<0.36 ^{NS} | P<0.60 ^{NS} | P<0.19 ^{NS} | P<0.42 ^{NS} | P<0.34 ^{NS} |
| Effect of treatment | | | | | |
| T1 (control) | 62.00±0.76 ^b | 62.00±0.56 ^c | 33.80±0.73 ^a | 64.20±1.25 ^b | 30.60±0.60 ^a |
| T2 (20 μM CoQ10) | 71.50±0.78 ^a | 68.60±0.52 ^b | 21.50±0.54 ^b | 72.60±0.73 ^a | 22.40±0.40 ^b |
| T3 (30 μM CoQ10) | 73.20±0.80 ^a | 76.00±1.21 ^a | 17.90±0.50 ^c | 73.90±0.57 ^a | 18.80±0.33 ^c |
| Effect of interaction | | | | | |
| T1x B | 61.80±1.11 | 61.80±0.80 | 33.60±0.98 | 63.60±1.86 | 30.40±0.68 |
| T1x C | 62.20±1.16 | 62.20±0.86 | 34.00±1.18 | 64.80±1.83 | 30.80±1.07 |
| T2 x B | 70.80±1.07 | 68.20±0.97 | 20.40±0.40 | 72.60±1.33 | 22.00±0.71 |
| T2 x C | 72.20±1.16 | 69.00±0.45 | 22.60±0.75 | 72.58±0.81 | 22.80±0.37 |
| T3 x B | 72.80±1.36 | 75.80±1.77 | 17.80±0.80 | 73.20±0.92 | 18.60±0.51 |
| T3 x C | 73.60±0.98 | 76.20±1.85 | 18.00±0.71 | 74.60±0.60 | 19.00±0.45 |
| Significance | P<0.91 ^{NS} | P<0.98 ^{NS} | P<0.44 ^{NS} | P<0.84 ^{NS} | P<0.94 ^{NS} |

Means denoted within the same column with different superscripts are significantly different at P<0.05. ^{NS}: Not significant.

Sperm characteristics in post-thawed semen:

Finally, in post-thawed semen, percentages of abnormality, livability, curled tail spermatozoa were not affected significantly by animal species, but each of sperm abnormality and damage acrossome spermatozoa were significantly (P<0.01) higher in cattle than in buffalo post-thawed semen. However, the effect of CoQ10 treatment was significant (P<0.05) on all sperm characteristics studied, being significantly (P<0.05) the highest in semen extended with 30 μM CoQ10, ranked the second for that extended with 20 μM CoQ10, while

the lowest in control semen. Effect of interaction between animal species and different CoQ10 levels was significant only on sperm abnormality (P<0.01) and damage acrossome (P<0.05) spermatozoa. This effect was reflected in similar trend of lower percentages of sperm abnormality and damage acrossome spermatozoa in buffalo than in cattle post-thawed semen for each treatment, being the lowest in post-thawed buffalo semen extended with CoQ10 at a level of 30 μM (Table 3).

Table 3. Mean and standard error of sperm characteristics in post-thawed semen as affected by species, CoQ10 treatment and their interaction.

| Item | Sperm characteristics (%) | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Sperm motility | Sperm livability | Sperm abnormality | Curled spermatozoa | Damage acrossome |
| Effect of species | | | | | |
| Buffalo (B) | 55.93±2.01 | 61.33±1.76 | 29.93±2.00 | 63.33±1.47 | 28.47±1.72 |
| Cattle (C) | 56.40±2.13 | 61.87±1.72 | 32.67±2.85 | 63.07±1.36 | 32.80±2.82 |
| Significance | P<0.68 ^{NS} | P<0.67 ^{NS} | P<0.007** | P<0.78 ^{NS} | P<0.002** |
| Effect of treatment | | | | | |
| T1 (control) | 48.20±0.55 ^c | 54.00±1.17 ^c | 43.40±1.59 ^a | 56.70±0.93 ^c | 41.60±2.15 ^a |
| T2 (20 μM CoQ10) | 54.40±1.18 ^b | 62.40±0.62 ^b | 27.80±0.55 ^b | 65.00±0.83 ^b | 27.40±0.62 ^b |
| T3 (30 μM CoQ10) | 65.80±0.33 ^a | 68.30±0.86 ^a | 22.70±0.62 ^c | 67.90±0.55 ^a | 22.90±0.94 ^c |
| Effect of interaction | | | | | |
| T1x B | 48.00±0.89 | 53.60±1.86 | 39.80±0.66 | 56.40±1.50 | 36.80±0.97 |
| T1x C | 48.40±0.75 | 54.40±1.63 | 47.00±2.10 | 57.00±1.26 | 46.40±2.89 |
| T2 x B | 54.00±0.55 | 62.40±0.93 | 27.60±0.93 | 65.80±1.16 | 26.20±0.66 |
| T2 x C | 54.80±2.42 | 62.60±1.32 | 28.00±0.71 | 64.20±1.20 | 28.60±0.75 |
| T3 x B | 65.80±0.49 | 68.00±1.38 | 22.40±1.08 | 67.80±0.80 | 22.40±1.36 |
| T3 x C | 66.00±1.30 | 68.60±1.17 | 23.00±0.71 | 68.00±0.84 | 23.40±1.40 |
| Significance | P<0.94 ^{NS} | P<0.95 ^{NS} | P<0.009** | P<0.60 ^{NS} | P<0.02* |

Means denoted within the same column with different superscripts are significantly different at P<0.05.

NS: Not significant. * Significant at P<0.05. ** Significant at P<0.01.

Enzyme activity in seminal plasma of post-thawed semen:

In seminal plasma of post-thawed semen, activity of transaminases (AST and ALT) was significantly ($P<0.001$) affected by animal species, being higher in buffalo than in cattle semen. However, LDH activity was not affected significantly by animal species. Meanwhile, effect of CoQ10 treatment was significant ($P<0.05$) on all enzyme activities. Extension of semen with both levels significantly ($P<0.05$) reduced all enzyme activities, showing marked reduction by increasing level of CoQ10 from 20 to 30, except for AST activity. Effect of interaction between animal species and different CoQ10 levels on all enzyme activities was not significant (Table 4).

Table 4. Mean and standard error of AST, ALT and LDH in seminal plasma of post-thawed semen as affected by species, CoQ10 treatment and their interaction.

| Item | Enzyme activity (IU/l) | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | AST | ALT | LDH |
| Effect of species | | | |
| Buffalo (B) | 35.06±2.19 | 30.66±1.34 | 268.87±11.76 |
| Cattle (C) | 28.47±2.32 | 22.33±1.43 | 259.20±12.00 |
| Significance | $P<0.00$ *** | $P<0.00$ *** | $P<0.14$ NS |
| Effect of treatment | | | |
| T1 (control) | 43.20±1.36 ^b | 32.80±1.50 ^c | 319.90±6.71 ^c |
| T2 (20 µM CoQ10) | 27.00±1.22 ^a | 25.00±1.59 ^b | 252.50±4.47 ^b |
| T3 (30 µM CoQ10) | 25.10±1.44 ^a | 21.70±1.65 ^a | 219.70±4.67 ^a |
| Effect of interaction | | | |
| T1 x B | 46.20±1.20 | 36.80±1.02 | 324.39±9.80 |
| T1 x C | 40.20±1.56 | 28.80±1.07 | 315.40±9.81 |
| T2 x B | 30.20±1.07 | 29.00±1.30 | 257.80±4.35 |
| T2 x C | 23.80±0.66 | 21.00±1.29 | 247.20±7.55 |
| T3 x B | 28.80±1.11 | 26.20±1.06 | 224.40±6.49 |
| T3 x C | 21.40±1.12 | 17.20±1.02 | 215.00±6.71 |
| Significance | $P<0.82$ NS | $P<0.88$ NS | $P<0.99$ NS |

Means denoted within the same row with different superscripts are significantly different at $P<0.001$.

AST: aspartate transaminases; ALT: alanine transaminases; LDH: lactic dehydrogenase.

NS: Not significant. *** Significant at $P<0.001$

DISCUSSION

Artificial insemination (AI) is an essential tool for increasing genetic improvement. Semen cryopreservation is an effective way with various advantages to the livestock industry (Bucak *et al.*, 2009). Using AI of cryopreserved semen leads dissemination of genetic material from a small number of superior sires to a large number of females (Petruska *et al.*, 2014). Distribution of high genetic merit frozen semen to livestock holders need more research to deliver healthy motile life sperm. This target will be achieved by using much more protective cryopreservation media.

The current study aimed to evaluate the freezability of buffalo and cattle semen as affected by supplementing Tris-extender with Coenzyme Q10 at levels of 20 or 30 µM, in terms of motility, livability, abnormality, curled tail and damage acrosome of spermatozoa during dilution, equilibration and thawing of semen. In general, the obtained results in our study

indicated species differences only in post-thawed semen for percentages of sperm abnormality and damage acrosome spermatozoa only, being significantly ($P<0.01$) higher in cattle than in buffalo, but percentages of abnormality, livability, curled tail spermatozoa were not affected significantly by animal species. Increasing percentages of abnormality and damage acrosome in Friesian than in buffalo fresh semen was indicated by El-Sherbieny (2004). Similar trend of sperm abnormality percentage between both species was reported by Ghareeb (2003). However, an opposite trend was reported by El-Keraby *et al.* (1995) and Dandoush (2002), who reported insignificant differences in percentages of sperm abnormality and damage acrosome spermatozoa between Friesian and buffalo semen. The present results may indicate increasing morphological abnormalities of spermatozoa during freezing process in cattle as compared to buffalo semen, because species differences in all sperm characteristics was not significant in post-diluted and post-equilibrated semen.

During freezing processes, marked reduction in viability, livability and integrity of sperm membrane and acrosome, and subsequently increasing sperm morphological abnormalities (Meyers, 2005; Pena *et al.*, 2009). During cryopreservation, the cell is exposed to several stresses which can result in compromised its function and death (Smith *et al.*, 2011). Also, spermatozoa were exposed to cold shock and atmospheric oxygen, which in turn increases their susceptibility to lipid peroxidation due to higher production of reactive oxygen species (Nair *et al.*, 2006). Excessive production of ROS in seminal plasma caused sperm immobilization by compromising their function through lipid peroxidation and DNA damage (Aitken *et al.*, 2010). Also, ROS can diffuse across the membranes into the cells and inhibits the activity of some vital enzymes decrease the phosphorylation in axonemal protein. The present study indicated significant improvement in all sperm characteristics during dilution, equilibration and thawing under the effect of extension of semen with 30 µM CoQ10, followed by 20 µM CoQ10. In this line, several authors reported that CoQ10 has a bio-energetic and an antioxidant role by reducing mitochondrial ROS generation, stabilizing mitochondrial membrane potential and enhancing ATP production (Somayajulu *et al.*, 2005; Mancini and Balercia, 2011). *In vitro* treatment of spermatozoa with CoQ10 preserves sperm motility avoids sperm lipid peroxidation and DNA fragmentation (Talevi *et al.*, 2013). In addition, CoQ10 is the only lipid stable electron carrier in the mitochondrial electron transport system, which where most ROS are produced in the cell. The mitochondrial inner membrane contains CoQ10 and α -tocopherol, both possessing antioxidant properties and acting in combination to scavenge free radicals during auto oxidation of mitochondrial membrane (Yousefian *et al.*, 2014). Earlier studies (Page *et al.*, 1961) established that the Coenzyme Q group had a recognized role with succinoxidase in sperm cellular respiration and oxidative phosphorylation since ATP-ase and succinic

dehydrogenase are associated with sperm motility. Hence, CoQ10 protect sperm membrane lipids against peroxidative damage, promotes membrane stability, scavenges superoxide anion and peroxides and plays an important role in sperm maturation and development (Agarwal and Prabakaran, 2005). CoQ10 supplementation to semen extender as an antioxidant significantly enhance total motility of cattle and buffalo sperm than the control group, especially after thawing, for 30 μ M CoQ10 enriched extender in T3. Our results are in agreement with (Talevi *et al.*, 2013) that CoQ10 able to diminish the fierce effect of ROS on sperm mobility and acrosomal damage especially in post-thawed semen. CoQ10 is able to scavenge free radicals that can cause damage to DNA proteins and lipids, base degradation of the DNA molecule and DNA fragmentation (Dos Santos *et al.*, 2009; Gualtieri *et al.*, 2014), consequently spermatozoa with damaged DNA lose their ability to fertilize the oocyte and consequently low conception rate (Agarwal and Prabakaran, 2005).

Improving incidence of acrosomal damage in the present study was associated with the lower activity of AST, ALT and LDH due to CoQ10 enrichment to extender of both species, being better for buffalo than cattle semen. Such results were supported by the theory that, good quality of semen characterized by lower activity of AST, ALT and LDH enzymes (Taha *et al.*, 2000; El-Harairy *et al.*, 2011), that could be due to lower injuries inflicted to cell membrane as evidenced by significantly lower total incidence of acrosomal changes (Borah *et al.* 2015).

CONCLUSION

The current study can conclude that CoQ10, as antioxidant, at a level of 30 μ M in Tris-extender is able to enhance most sperm characteristics including mobility, livability, plasma membrane integrity, decreasing sperm abnormalities and it is strong protective power against acrosomal damage of buffalo and cattle spermatozoa.

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تأثير إضافة كوايزيم كيو ١٠ كمضاد للأكسدة على مخفف السائل المنوي أثناء حفظ السائل المنوي للجاموس والأبقار

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أجريت هذه الدراسة لمعرفة تأثير إضافة كوايزيم كيو ١٠ كمضاد أكسدة لمخفف الترس على صفات السائل المنوي لطلائق الجاموس المصري والأبقار في محطة بحوث الانتاج الحيواني بالجميزة التابعة لمعهد بحوث الانتاج الحيواني بمصر. استخدم ٥ طلائق جاموس ناضجة جنسيا عمرها ٤ سنوات وزنها ٤٠٠ - ٤٥٠ كجم وكذلك ٥ طلائق أبقار فريزيان عمرها ٣ سنوات وزنها ٣٥٠ - ٤٠٠ كجم تم تجميع السائل المنوي مرتين أسبوعيا لمدة خمسة أسابيع متتالية وتم اختيار القفازات ذات الحركة الجماعية أكبر من أو يساوي ٧٠٪ وتم خلطها ثم تخفيفها على درجة حرارة ٣٧ م باستخدام مخفف الترس المضاف إليه صفر ، ٢٠ ، ٣٠ مللي مول من كوايزيم كيو ١٠ في المعاملات الأولى والثانية والثالثة على التوالي ، تم عمل فترة موازنة للسائل المنوي المخفف على درجة حرارة ٥ م لمدة ٤ ساعات ثم عبي في قصبية فرنسية ٠.٢٥ مل وتم تجميدها في النيتروجين السائل على درجة حرارة ١٩٦ م. تم اسالة قصبية السائل المنوي المجمدة عشوائيا على درجة حرارة ٣٧ م لمدة ٣٠ ثانية وتم تقييم السائل المنوي للنسب المنوية لكل من الحركة التقدمية، الحيوانات المنوية الحية والشاذة ، الملوية الذيل وذات الأكروسوم الغير سليم، كذلك تم قياس النشاط الانزيمي لكل من AST, ALT, LDH في بلازما السائل المنوي بعد الإسالة ، أظهرت النتائج عدم وجود تأثير لنوع الحيوان على صفات السائل المنوي التي درست فيما عدا زيادة النسبة المنوية للحيوانات المنوية الشاذة وذات الأكروسوم الغير سليم في السائل المنوي بعد الإسالة لطلائق الأبقار مقارنة بالجاموس ، حدث تحسن في كل صفات السائل المنوي بإضافة ٣٠ مللي مول من كوايزيم كيو ١٠ في المعاملة الثالثة بعد التخفيف وبعد الموازنة وبعد الإسالة مقارنة بالكنترول بدون إضافة في المعاملة الأولى لكل من السائل المنوي لطلائق الجاموس والأبقار ، حدث إنخفاض في النشاط الانزيمي لبلازما السائل المنوي لكلا النوعين. يستخلص من هذه النتائج ان استخدام كوايزيم كيو ١٠ بمستوى ٣٠ مللي مول في مخفف الترس يمكن أن يحسن معظم صفات السائل المنوي متضمنة القدرة على الحركة والحياة وسلامة الغشاء البلازمي مع تقليل نسبة الشواد بالإضافة لأن له قوة في الحماية من تكسر أغشية الأكروسوم في الحيوانات المنوية للجاموس والأبقار.