I thank the referee for his valuable comments to improve my manuscript.

Here is my reply:

Section 1: Introduction

The other referee asked for a „personal motivation“ as well. I therefore included the following paragraph at the beginning of the introduction.

The motivation of this work was twofold. Fascinated by the ancient and modern encyclopedias as a summary of contemporary knowledge and continuing interest in all phenomena related to lightning and thunder, it suggests itself to study the development of descriptions and explanations of lightning and thunder over the past two and a half millennia in encyclopedias. They are supposed to contain the actual knowledge of the respective age which has been accepted by the authorities of the time, relaying often to earlier scholars. Their widespread circulation indicates that the readers appreciated exactly this purpose.

Section 5: Enlightenment and later

To my knowledge an „end“ of enlightenment is not clearly defined. Therefore I combined the encyclopedias dealt within in this section.

Current Section 6: Concluding remarks.

I rephrased this section as follows:

It should be emphasized that the explanations of lightning and thunder in enc. is certainly not the only and the most appropriate way to document the progress in this field. But it was an interesting endeavor regarding the author’s interest in enc.
For over two millennia the authors of enc. entries about thunderstorm effects did hardly dispute their ideas. They were regarded as true and correct, because former „authorities“ had stated them as well. This could be regarded as a kind of human hubris. Only from enlightenment onwards authors admit doubts and uncertainties in their texts. In the present WIKIPEDIA, is it stated at several places that there are still many aspects of these phenomena are not yet fully understood. Among those are some details of the cloud electrification and charge separation, the triggering of leaders, the role of infrasound in thunder, details of the terrestrial gamma-ray flashes and the physics of pearl lightning and ball lightning. Since the WIKIPEDIA entries are continuously refined, it is expected that these uncertainties will be addressed in the future.

There is no doubt however, that important progress in the understanding of lightning, thunder and related phenomena is published beyond enc. In particular, studies employing modern tools like Doppler radar, lightning detection by emitted radio waves and multichannel spectral measurements from satellites can greatly enhance our knowledge of the complicated details of thunder and lightning. A remarkable example of such a study was published by Schmidt et al (2012). Studies initiated and conducted within ICAE (International Commission on Atmospheric Electricity) a sub-group of IAMAS (International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences) are expected to follow.