“As a case study to understand testis degeneration, carp with JGC may shed light on as-yet unknown but parallel conditions in vertebrates such as humans, and their possible treatment.

“Invasive common carp are a destructive pest in freshwater lakes and rivers across Australia and around the world.

“The discovery of JGC opens up a range of control options that could be applied in other waterways.

“For example, artificially sterilised ‘Judas fish’ are often released into the wild to help identify the location of feral populations, and releasing fish with JGC could be a preferable option.

“Releasing sterile fish also helps to disrupt reproduction as well as providing genetic control options,” Dr Patil said.

The head of IMAS’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre, Professor Caleb Gardner, said accidental and intentional releases of non-native fish is a global concern and sterility such as that found in the Lake Sorell carp could potentially provide a natural solution.

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