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Correction: The patent innovation ecosystem of China's ready-to-cook foods industry: spatiotemporal evolution, technical clustering, and collaborative network analysis

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In the published article, there was an error in Figure 2 as published. The map of China in Figure 2(b) was incomplete due to the omission of the ten-dash line. The corrected Figure 2 and its caption appear below.

The original article has been updated.

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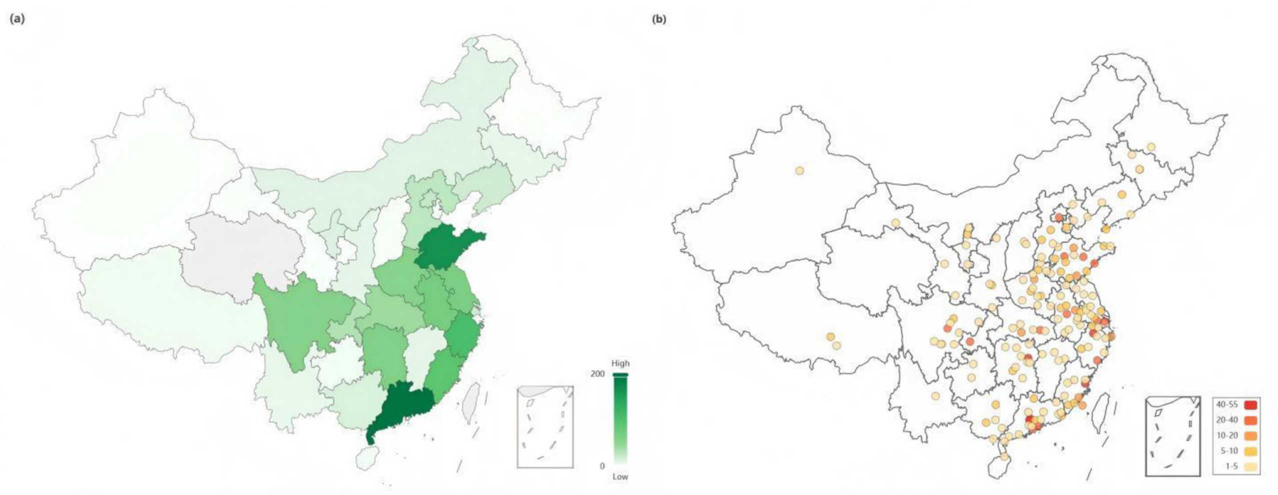

FIGURE 2
Presents a geographical heatmap of RTC foods patent distribution in China (2018–2025). **(a)** Provincial-level distribution: The color gradient represents the volume of patent applications across provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government, with the darkest shade indicating Guangdong Province as the top applicant (197 patents). **(b)** Municipal-level distribution: The chromatic intensity corresponds to application numbers at prefecture-level cities, where Guangzhou City emerges as the leading innovator (53 patents), depicted in the deepest hue.