INTRODUCTION
The Amaryllidaceae are a large alliance of monocotyledons and are widely distributed over the tropical and temperate regions of the world. The family is represented by about 85 genera and 1100 species in the world (Willis, 1966) and by about four genera and 25 species in India (Hooker, 1894).

The plants of the family are mostly bulbous with pretty flowers and are, therefore, exploited by horticulturists. The family is characterised by the flowers arranged in a determinate umbel and possessing an inferior ovary. However, Hutchinson (1959, 1973) considers the type of inflorescence as more important than the position of the ovary and, therefore, includes the superior-ovariated liliaceous tribes Agapantheae, Allieae and Gilliesieae within the amaryllids. All the three tribes are characterised by an umbellate inflorescence.

A perusal of the available literature shows that taxonomical, cytological, embryological, palynological and floral anatomical etc. investigations have been extensive in the group (Flory, 1950; Erdtman, 1952; Fahn, 1952, 1953; Sharma et al., 1954, 1956a, 1956b, 1964; Vos, 1961; Singh, 1972; Kulkarni, 1973; Lakshmi, 1973, 1977, 1978, 1980; Lakshmi and Venkateswarlu, 1976, etc.).
Certain aspects of the vegetative anatomy have also been covered fairly well (Cheadle, 1968, 1969), while certain others have not been that extensively studied (Goebel, 1922; Deshpande, 1955, 1956, 1960b; Dutt, 1954; Shah and Gopal, 1970; Rajgopal, 1979; Artyushenko, 1980; Bir Bahadur et al., 1984, etc.).

The present attempt is to make an indepth study of the anatomy of as many of the different vegetative organs of as many species as could be collected and obtained to have a broad-based data for systematic and phylogenetic considerations.

In the present contribution, the results of a study on the vegetative anatomy of 17 species belonging to 12 genera of the Amaryllidaceae and one genus each of Alstroemeriaceae and Hypoxidaceae are presented. The amaryllidaceous genera are distributed over eight of the thirteen tribes of Hutchinson.

The vegetative plant material of some of the species was obtained from Govt. Botanic Gardens, Ooty, while that of some others was picked from the plants put to cultivation in the Botanic Gardens of Marathwada University, Aurangabad, to study fresh material at various stages of development.
A comprehensive aspectwise discussion based on observations made in the course of the present study and in reference to pertinent earlier literature is attempted, and conclusions, as plausibly as possible, are drawn.