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o-Phenylenediamine reacts with 2-formyl-, 2-acetyl-, or 2-benzoylpyridine in ethanol in the presence of cobalt, nickel, copper, or zinc chlorides to form monomeric complexes ML1−3 Cl2·nH2O {M = Co, Ni, Cu, Zn; L1 = N1,N2 -bis(pyridin-2-ymethylidene)benzene-1,2-diamine, L2 = N1,N2-bis(pyridin-2-ylethylidene)benzene-1,2-diamine, L3 = N1,N2 -bis[phenyl(pyridin-2-yl)methylidene]benzene-1,2-diamine; n = 0–3}. The condensation products (L1−L3) act in the complexes as tetradentate N,N,N,N-ligands. Thermolysis of thecomplexes occurs in two stages: dehydration (70–95°C) and complete degradation (320–450°C). At concentrations of 10–5–10–7 M, the complexes inhibit in vitro growth and proliferation of HL-60 human promyelocytic leukemia cells.